

**STORM  
CLOUDS  
OVER  
AMERICA**

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# ***STORM CLOUDS OVER AMERICA***

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by W. CARL KETCHERSIDE

*Sponsored by*

## **CHURCHES OF CHRIST**

7121 Manchester Avenue,  
St. Louis, Mo.

412 Queen Street,  
Webster Groves, Mo.

5344 Lillian Avenue,  
St. Louis, Mo.

137 East Maple Street,  
Hartford, Ill.

29th and Washington Streets,  
Granite City, Ill.

## PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS

It is the solemn duty of a preacher of the gospel to point out those wrongs which affect society, and those tendencies which may grow into vices and destroy the civilization which we have built by the grace of God. He is not to question whether or not his message will be popular. He is not to enquire whether it will please men. His only concern should be that he speak the truth, and that his message will please the God of heaven. In following that course I wish to mention certain things today which I am certain will work eventual destruction of America, unless they are checked.

I look with wondering grief upon the spread of race hatred within our nation at this present time. It is evident as stated in the days of the Revolutionary War that we must hang together. Jesus affirmed that a house divided against itself cannot stand, and a nation divided against itself will be brought to desolation. We all admit that in unity there is strength, in disunity lies disaster. Then it is about time for us to take stock of the sowing of the seed of malice in the hearts of our people.

There are subversive elements in this nation today existing for only one purpose, and that to arouse feelings of deep-seated anger against other minority groups. One of those groups, which Americans are taught to hate, is made up of the Jews. I want to speak plainly on this matter, because I feel it to be my sacred duty to do so. It is not a question of what you want to hear, or what you would like to hear on this program. We are not conducting this broadcast to please you or anyone else. We are doing it because we want to set forth what we believe to be the truth. Naturally, we shall be happy if what we say is in line with what you believe, but whether it is or not, we expect to preach it just the same.

No nation has ever persecuted the Jews and been spared the wrath of God. When God called Abraham from the Ur of the Chaldees, He declared unto him, "I will bless them that bless thee

and curse him that curseth thee" (Genesis 12:3). Every nation which oppressed these people suffered a just judgment as a result. The Egyptians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, and the Greeks, among the ancient empires, have gone down into oblivion. Modern nations are paying the same penalty. Think of Spain, ostracized by the great powers of the present. Spain heaped untold cruelties upon the Jews, merely because they were Jews. Germany has felt the hand of God's punishment, and her once proud cities are heaps of rubble. The glory of her literature, her scientific accomplishments, her music and art—this has faded away, but it is only the result of what God has decreed. I stood before numerous audiences when the power of the German Wehrmacht was at its height, when men trembled at the thought of blitzkrieg warfare, and confidently affirmed that Germany and Hitler would go down in shame and ignominy. It has come to pass!

Now the same spirit of anti-Semitism is being sown among us. I lift up my voice against it. It is unscriptural, uncharitable and un-Christian to condemn a man purely because he is of another nationality than yourself. The Bible declares, "God hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and hath determined before the bounds of their habitation" (Acts 17:26). The same blood which throbs through your veins also pulsates through the veins of every Jew on earth. Trace back your lineage far enough in the history of the world, and both you and the Jew must admit a common fatherhood.

If you hate a Jew because he is a Jew, then you will have to hate Jesus Christ, who was "of the seed of David, of the seed of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1). You will have to hate the great apostle Paul, that Christian soldier who made the gospel available to the Gentile lands of his day. In his defense before a rabid mob of his own countrymen, he unhesitatingly declared, "I am verily a man which am a Jew" (Acts 22:3). You will be obligated to hate every one of the apostles of Jesus Christ, for every one of them was a Jew. The man who claims to be a Christian, and yet hates the Jews, because they are Jews, is nothing but a narrow-minded, bigoted, hypocritical pretender, who has never even caught the spirit of Christianity, and who would deny his own Lord if He came in the same flesh and stood on earth today.

It is wrong to persecute people simply because they are in the minority. That's the attitude of a cowardly, craven, blustering bully. It is the thing which made Hitler the supercilious, arrogant, boastful dictator that he was. Everyone belongs to some minority. If one minority can be persecuted and maligned, simply because it is a minority, then every other minority group can be persecuted on the same basis. That's the damnable, hell-inspired doctrine that "might makes right." It is the jungle reasoning of the "survival of the fittest." It is an application of the law of "claw and fang." All the battles fought in the world have shown that *right* makes *might*, and not that the reverse is true.

Hitler didn't have to persecute the Jews! Pharaoh didn't have to treat them like dogs. No nation has had to persecute these oft-despairing fragments of humanity. But those who persecute others do so because they do not recognize the sovereignty of God. They do it because they want to make *gods* of themselves, and in their lust for power they must find someone helpless and weak upon whom they can assert their authority. If the Jews should be ridiculed, hated, despised and trampled underfoot because they are in the minority, you can reason also that you are deserving of the same fate. The church you belong to, the nation you are a citizen of, both are in the minority, and either from a religious standpoint or from that of a national standpoint, you are weaving a noose for your own neck.

The fact that one is of another nation gives you no right to intreat him evilly. If it did, then if you ever visit another nation, you should also be persecuted and harshly cuffed about. Your reasoning would lead you to expect such. Would it be right for the people of Scotland to ridicule and persecute our soldiers stationed among them, just because those soldiers are of a different country? Would it be right for the people in Africa to stone and lynch our boys who landed on their coasts, because those boys were of a different color than the majority of those who live in Africa? If it isn't right to do it there, then tell me what makes it right to do it over here. Is God a God of the United States only? Is He a God of the Gentiles exclusively? Is He copyrighted by those who are light-skinned and does He not also belong to those of other colors in the world? Is it the external color of a man which determines his worth, or is it the color of his heart and

emotions? Shall a man be hated because his skin is dark even though his soul is white, while others are respected because their skins are white while their souls are black as night with evil and sin. Answer that if you can, you who pretend to love God, and then hate those whom He has created!

What good does it do to go to church and mutter pious prayers and mumble platitudinous petitions to Him who made us all, and then go forth to persecute in word, if not in deed, those who are children of this same Father. I hold no brief for the Jewish denial of Christ as the Son of God. I join with the great apostle in the statement, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1). I look upon them as Paul again specifies, "As touching the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes, but as touching the election, they are beloved for their fathers' sakes" (Romans 11:28). The fathers referred to here are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and all that other host of worthies who lived before the coming of Christ. So if you do not like the Jewish delicatessen owner on the corner of your block, if you dislike the shoemaker who half-soles your shoes, if you dislike the fruit stand owner where you purchase your apples—remember, these people are descendants of the fathers and they are beloved because of the noble heritage which they have, and because of that which they have given to those of us who are Gentiles.

Papers are being published, propaganda is in circulation, even religious bodies are banding together to foster racial hatred. We are, under the guise of free speech, permitting the circulation of those things which will bring our nation down in ruin. Turn from this poison as you would from that which would destroy your loved ones. Hatred is of the devil. Love is of God. This nation can only exist as it becomes a haven for the oppressed, a home for the weary and downtrodden, a refuge for the persecuted. Let us love God and our fellowman, then He can truly bless America, land that we love!

## FLIRTING WITH PROVIDENCE

It is characteristic of the American public that it becomes excited over each new thing that is invented. That which rates the headlines in the daily press creates a furore, and becomes the topic of conversation by every tongue. Such was the atomic bomb. The destructive power of this discovery has been thoroughly investigated and our entire populace has been worried and troubled over its potentialities. Yet, it appears to me that there are other portents of evil which are just as fraught with danger for our commonwealth. No one appears to be much troubled about these things. Everyone goes gaily on his way, never thinking about the force of them.

It is time for us to awaken! We are nurturing today the seeds which will grow into destruction of our ideals tomorrow. One of the tendencies in that direction is man's meddling with God's goodness, and the slighting of His favors. In an attempt to regulate the law of supply and demand, which has always been at the base of commerce and trade, we are prone to place our puny, finite wisdom in opposition to the infinite wisdom of the Almighty. Let me give you an example of what I mean.

There is now before certain departments of our government a recommendation that the farmers kill off millions of laying hens. The purpose is to keep eggs off the market next year. It is reasoned that there will be a great many eggs classed as surplus, the price will go down, and thus the farmer will suffer. I am wholly in sympathy with the farmers of this nation. They do a great deal more work, over a great many more hours than the fellow who works in an office or factory, and they receive proportionately a lot less for it. Yet I am convinced that most of these sane-thinking, sound-minded rural dwellers will agree with my position today. The farmers are the backbone of America, and they are not generally stampeded by crackpot ideas. They know what happens when a group of bureaucrats sitting in an office begin to pass laws and create red tape. They know the outcome.

A few years ago it was said we had too much cotton. Farmers were paid to plow up every third row they had planted. They had to beat their mules over the ears to get them to walk on the rows. The mules had too much "horse sense" to want to do it.

Where is all that surplus cotton now? You can't even buy a white shirt anymore. Then it was reasoned that we had too much pork, so pigs were killed and thrown into the river. Now you have a hard time finding enough bacon to grease the skillet, and lard is at a premium. It was said we had too many cattle, so farmers were paid a price for cows which were then shot down and left to rot on the prairies. Now you cannot find enough beef to feed your family. Millions are starving in the world, and we are asked to raise more, in the way of donations to help them. In one breath we are told that we must feed the world, in another we are told to kill the laying hens. We are blowing hot and cold out of the same national mouth.

You ask what business that is of mine, and you question why I should talk on that type of subject on a religious program. I answer that it is the business of every citizen of this nation to be concerned when those who guide us, start leading us down the road to ruin. I answer that when men start destroying wilfully that which a kind Providence has given us, it is time for someone to rise up and point our minds back to God. We have brought upon ourselves a part of the trouble and turmoil which exists today. We are paying for our own foolishness. When God gave us plenty, we sneered at it. We told Him that we knew better than He what the world needed. Instead of storing up for future needs, we killed our cattle, burnt our wheat, plowed up our cotton, and now we know that we have condemned thousands to die because of our ridiculous arrogance and fallible judgment.

What is the teaching of the Bible on this subject? Let us examine it and let America listen. You who are the elected representatives of this great nation, hearken to the wisdom of God. When Joseph was food administrator for the great wheat raising country of Egypt, what did he do with the surplus? I read his own words, "Let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn . . . and let them keep food in the cities. And that food shall be for store against the years of famine which shall be in the land, that the land perish not through the famine" (Genesis 41:35, 36).

It has ever been an adage, unquestioned and undoubted, that "Wilful waste makes woeful want!" With the guidance of God,



Joseph cushioned the land against calamity. Had he not been thankful for and appreciative of God's gifts, there would have been widespread and terrible suffering.

Jesus taught the same lesson of economy and frugality. When He fed the five thousand with the few loaves and fishes He instructed the disciples to gather up the surplus; again when He fed the four thousand, He gathered up seven baskets full of the fragments. Why did He do this? Was it because He was fearful that He could not create additional food? Certainly not, but He wanted the world to learn the lesson of caring for those things which God has given. Would it not have been peculiar for Him to lift up His eyes to heaven, and with one breath thank God for the food, then with the next breath order it to be trampled under-foot?

The wisest monarch who ever sat on an earthly throne was Solomon. So marvelous were his expressions that men came from the far corners of the earth to hear his words. So great a national administrator was he that during his regime silver became as common as the paving stones of the street, and gold as common as silver. Surely we can learn something from his pen with regard to the subject of national strength. I call attention to this reading, "Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds, for riches are not forever, and doth the crown endure to every generation?" Certainly it is true that riches will not always endure, so we should be diligent to look after what God hath given us.

Listen again, "He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough" (Proverbs 28:19). That doesn't sound like a man can make more by not farming than he can by farming. It doesn't sound much like the modern idea of getting rich by spending, securing the future by destroying the present, or asking favor of God by refusing His blessings. The same man declares, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn" (Proverbs 29:2). Our legislators should learn a lesson from that and praise God more, and brag about themselves less.

Yet it seems that all the lessons of history are ignored. The basic economic structure of the past is forgotten. We have embarked upon a stormy sea of human speculation and experimentation, and what the end will be no one knows. Men do not even learn by their own mistakes. Once more Solomon says, "Though you bray a fool in a mortar among wheat, with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him" (Proverbs 27:22). After bringing a world famine into existence by our crazy, crackpot, silly notions, we are merrily going on down the same road, deeper and deeper into the forest of ruin, which shall some day engulf us until we cannot again get back out to the light of day.

One of the first signs of idolatry is indifference toward God. When Paul wrote to the Gentiles and outlined the steps which they had taken into the abominations wherein they wallowed, he declared that, "When they knew God they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful" (Romans 1:21). America has known God, but she is not glorifying Him as God. Neither is she thankful. Will we also go on in our tragic misery into the ultimate ruin of which the writer speaks, "Wherefore God also gave them up" (Romans 1:24). Will it some day be said of us, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind" (Romans 1:28). The signs are here for all to read. Will we heed the dangers that lie before us? Will we come back to safety and security, or will we topple blindly over the precipice?

Let us not preach plenty by prodigality, wealth by waste, or sufficiency by squandering! Let us not dam up the flow of God's blessings by our own ungodliness; let us not clog the horn of plenty with our own arrogance. Let us advocate use and not misuse; profusion and not confusion; repletion rather than depletion! Let every home in America be made up of God-fearing, God-honoring citizens who bow their heads over the provisions given by the Lord and show their appreciation for His love. This is no time to destroy the favors of heaven. It is a time for husbanding our resources, providing for the rainy day which is sure to come, and thus prove that we are worthy of a continued outpouring of good things from the divine storehouse.

## THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE

I want you to listen today while I tell you the story of Ethel. There isn't anything exciting about it. It isn't extraordinary. It is merely the story of a negro housemaid, and how she died. The newspapers did not headline it, and the neighbors paid but little attention to the event. But you ought to know about it. The woman whom it concerns lived in a dingy tenement from which she went forth every morning to work in a mansion across the town, for a wealthy young couple.

On the day about which we are concerned, Ethel left her home with a heavy heart. Her little boy, five years old, was very sick. The mother wrapped the little brown body in the ragged quilts she had, and kissed him goodbye. Placing him in the care of a neighbor woman who had promised to look in on the youngster at frequent intervals, the mother set out for the long streetcar journey to her work. But she couldn't get the little lad off her mind and her work was only half-hearted because of the preoccupation.

The lady who employed her was sitting in her pajamas, smoking a cigarette and reading the morning newspaper. She asked the maid to take the glass ash tray and dump its contents, and wash it. Her fingers all thumbs, the colored woman dropped the tray which struck the foot of the bridge lamp, and broke into bits. Infuriated, the employer jumped to her feet, and slapped the maid across the face. The red showed through the brown skin as color rushed to the face of the worker. But she controlled herself and, putting on her outer garments, she left the premises.

Tears streaming down her cheeks, she went to the corner policeman and told her story. He laughed at her, "Forget it," he said, "you're only a negro, and no one will believe you in preference to a white woman." In vain the colored woman asked that something might be done about the assault, but all she heard was, "You're different. You might as well take it, and keep still about it. You haven't got a chance in this world."

Ethel brooded over it all of the way home. When she arrived at the dingy room, she could no longer stand it. The thought of her little son growing up in a world of injustice and hatred and inequality overpowered her. She went to the kitchen, secured a bottle, gave the little boy some of the contents and, drinking the

rest herself, she lay down beside the child. There they were found that night, peacefully sleeping in death, the little boy clutched in his mother's arms. You say she killed her loved one and committed suicide. You put the blame on her, and say she took a coward's way out. I'm not so sure. I'm not sure that she was not killed by the inhumanity of some who, like most of us, pretend to be followers of Jesus, and yet, despise those for whom He died!

We teach our children to memorize the Declaration of Independence. We have them breathe those noble words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Then we turn around and by our own damnable hypocrisy we teach those boys and girls to hate their fellowmen. I want to ask today if there is a difference in God's sight in men, simply because they possess a skin of a different color? Let us turn to the Bible and determine.

There is no difference in the *need of salvation*. I read, "For there is no difference, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:22, 23). I read again, "What then? Are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles that they are all under sin" (Romans 3:9).

There is no difference in the *plan of salvation*. Listen to the apostle Paul, "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all, is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:12, 13).

There is no difference in the *sentence of death*. The Bible says, "For as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). Death passed upon all men. The black, the white, the yellow, the red among men. All must die, for "It is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment."

There will be no difference *at the judgment*. Paul says that in the revelation of the righteous judgment of God, He will "render to every man according to his deeds" (Romans 2:6). Moreover,

he affirms that tribulation and anguish will be the lot of "every soul of man that doeth evil," and glory, honor and peace the reward of "every man that worketh good."

There is no difference in the possession of God. Hear these questions: "Is He the God of the Jews only? is He not of the Gentiles also? Yes, of the Gentiles also" (Romans 3:29). In the sight of God it is not a question of the outward appearance of a man. It was said by one of old, "Man looketh on the outward appearance But the Lord looketh on the heart." A man is judged in the sight of heaven by his deeds. What he does is all that counts — not where he was born, what nation he is from, or what his color is. I lift up my voice in protest today against the persecution of others who may stand justified in the last day, while their tormentors and persecutors will be condemned to eternal and everlasting condemnation.

It was the creed of Hitler to foster hate for others. Germany has paid the price for that spirit of malice. Let America learn a lesson from her fate.

*This is the land where hate should die—  
This is the land where strife should cease,  
Where foul, suspicious fear should fly  
Before our flag of light and peace.  
Then let us purge from poisoned thought  
That service to the State we give,  
And so be worthy as we ought  
Of this great Land in which we live.*

The Churches of Christ believe in equality of opportunity regardless of race. We believe that the gospel was given for all men everywhere. That Jesus died for all men. That God will have all men to be saved. We believe that it is hastening the doom of this nation which gave us birth to persecute those who are in the minority, or to trample underfoot those who are poor, needy and desperate in the struggle for life. If we continue as a nation we will do so because with outstretched hand we lend assistance to others who are in sore distress. We cannot convert men to a God of Heaven while we create a hell on earth.

Upon Mars' Hill in Athens, the great apostle enunciated a solemn truth when he declared that, "God hath made of one blood all nations of men." That has been proven to be a fact in the great war. When a negro stretcher-bearer could drain the blood from his own body and place that life-giving fluid in the body of a wounded white man, and the white man lived and walked, it was proven that truly there is "no difference."

Let us, then, if we would make America strong, teach our children not alone to be handy in their work, skillful in their trades, and adept in their arts, but let us teach them to respect others and their rights. I quote from the pen of Hubert N. Hart, Superintendent of Stuyvesant High School, New York City, as he wrote on page 15 of the January, 1946, edition of "The Journal of Education." His remarks are timely. Listen! "What do such objectives as skills, health, worthy leisure activity and all the rest matter, if supporting them all there is not this faith in the equality of man, which, in turn, leads to mutual understanding and decent forbearance? When American youth learns that men are indeed equal, the humblest with the greatest, we may have faith that without too great difficulty, most of the other objectives of secondary education, skills, social and civic competence, health—can be added unto this." And that is all true!

This in no wise implies that we must compromise upon any point of faith. But it certainly emphasizes my belief that you cannot save a man unless you have love for that man. You cannot convert others to a God of love while you are preaching hate for those whom that God has made. Let's live our religion! Let's show the world that the way of Christ is best. Let's keep our records clear, that we may be approved in the last great day.

*Four things a man must learn to do  
If he would make his record true:  
To think without confusion clearly;  
To love his fellowmen sincerely;  
To act from honest motives purely;  
To trust in God and Heaven securely.*

The Churches of Christ stand ready today to preach the gospel to all men everywhere, without respect to social condition, race or color!

## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The aged Eli was judge and priest of Israel. The office became his when he was 58 years old, and now he had ruled for forty years, until he was within two years of having lived a century. Today his heart trembled. The people of Israel were at war with the Philistines. The sons of the priests had done a terrible thing. They had taken the sacred ark of God out to the battlefield. If anything happened to the ark, God would not be with His people any longer. It was terrible to contemplate.

The old man groped his way to the edge of the city. He was blinded by reason of his age. Someone placed a seat for him by the gate of the wall and there he sat, anxious and fearful. He did not see the figure of the runner who approached. But the courier sped into the city. His head was covered with dust and his clothes were torn by sadness of the message he carried. The inhabitants of Shiloh gathered around him. When he gave forth his tidings, a loud shout of sorrow went up from the populace. It reached the ears of the aged man sitting by the gate. Eli cried out to any who might be near, "What is the reason for this shout and tumult?" They brought the runner to him.

"I am he that came out of the army camp," he said. Eli quickly asked, "What tidings do you have, my son?" The messenger answered, "Israel has fled before the enemy. There has been a great slaughter of our men. Your two sons are dead. The ark of God is taken!" It was too much for the aged judge. He threw up his hands, fell backward from his seat, and lay prone by the gate. Those who rushed to him knew that he was already dead from a broken neck as they picked up his limp body. It was a sad day for the whole nation! But what occasioned all of this sorrow and trouble?

We must turn to the word of God as it came to Samuel in the dead of night. "Behold I will do a thing which will make the ears of everyone in Israel ring when they hear it. In that day I will perform against Eli all the things which I have spoken against his family, for I have told him that I will judge his house for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile,

and he restrained them not" (1 Samuel 3:12, 13). Israel was severely punished as a nation because they had turned their children loose to do as they pleased, and had not checked them in their wild wave of immorality. I am sure we can find a lesson for today in their conduct.

Now, mind you, Eli himself was religious. He carried on the formal services of God in an acceptable manner. He went to the house of the Lord regularly. He ministered unto God according to the law. But he knew that even while he was engaged in these rites, his sons were practicing immoral acts at the very door of the house of God. Yes, he knew it, for he spoke to the boys and said, "Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people." It was a matter of common knowledge. It was a subject of common report. But that's about as far as he went. He did not take any steps to restrain their wicked actions or mitigate their ungodly conduct.

There are a great many parents of that kind today. They go to church. They attend worship at the house of God. But even at the time while they are there, their children are following after the vain things of this world. And some of those parents will mildly remonstrate, but do nothing beyond that. And what is the result? The children have no respect for the sacred things of God. Like the sons of Eli, they take that which is God's and laugh at and ridicule it. I contend that unless a definite change in perspective is made, we are on the way into national oblivion. Crime is increasing, and the average age of the criminal element goes ever downward. The youth of the land is becoming corrupt and degenerate, with crimes of passion and sex ever on the increase. It is a matter of concern to all of the lawmakers and legislators. It is a constant source of worry to the police forces. It seems to be a matter of interest to all except the ones who can really help—the parents!

I want you to remember that God held Eli responsible for the conduct of his children because he did not restrain their vicious habits. And just so will God hold you responsible this day if your children are turned loose to roam the street, and fall into habits which are detrimental to their welfare and to that of society. Again I state, it is parental delinquency, rather than juvenile,



which presents our most serious problem today. The answer to the difficulty is to be found in the minds of fathers and mothers, and not in the immature minds of their boys and girls.

Children must be taught to respect law. They must be taught to respect authority. There is no authority in many homes today. Everyone does that which is right in his own sight. He disregards the rights of others in the family. The word of the father is ridiculed. The wish of the mother is scoffed at. And what is the result? When the children go forth into society, there is no regard for the laws of the land or the rights of other persons. Think of school buildings entered over the week end, with desks smashed, ink poured over the records, files scattered about the floor and vile obscenities printed on the blackboards. Twice that kind of thing has occurred in this area recently. Who is to blame? I contend that it is the parents as much as the children.

If you deny that and say that the parents cannot be responsible for what their children do when they are away from them, I ask, what business boys of fourteen and fifteen have in being upon the streets after the hour of midnight and prowling in gangs of potential criminals? Why do these parents turn those children loose and never care where they are or when they get in? Don't tell me that the sole responsibility is to be placed upon mere children. They know their sons are vile but they restrain them not. That caused the death of one nation, and it can cause the death of another one, you know!

Think of the wilful, malicious destruction of public property. I note the lipstick smears, the knife scratches, the initial cuttings in the paint on the streetcars and buses. I see the seats themselves cut and slashed for no reason except the apparent insensate desire to destroy that which belongs to another. But I'm not made to wonder about its reason, when I go into the homes and see where mothers have given children crayolas and permitted them to deliberately mark up the wall paper, or furnished them hatchets with which to hack at the woodwork, and then excused it on the ground that the house does not belong to them, and they have to pay too much rent anyway. These things may seem little matters to you, but don't forget "straws tell which way the wind blows."

Many times the shortcomings of children are excused by the saying that, "You cannot put old heads on young shoulders." But judging by the way some parents act, someone must certainly have put some *young heads* on *old shoulders*. Some are hardly fit to deserve the honored title of father or mother. They do not know enough to command the respect and honor of their own little ones. In some instances the parents act as if they didn't have as much sense as a six-year-old child. It is said that children reach maturity earlier in these days. With equal truth it may be affirmed that parents reach immaturity the same way.

If a child is permitted to stand up and defy the wish of a father and get by with it, he will also do the same in school, and later in society. We must impart to our offspring at a tender age those principles which must govern any commonwealth where men and women are forced to work together. Many times parents do not cooperate. If the father corrects a little son, the mother will take the child's part, and soothe it and comfort it by saying that it has been treated mean. Likewise, when the mother corrects a child, often the father will take up for the child instead of backing up the mother in the correction. Keep that up, and you'll be shedding tears one of these days as they cart your youngster off to the juvenile court or prison. How can a youngster respect the wishes of two people who do not respect each other?

It once was the case that when a youngster got a whipping at school he didn't run home and tell it. He knew if he did, he would get another! Now the teacher is always in the wrong, and the child is always in the right. If a teacher spansks a child now, he has to whip that child's mother, father, grandfather, grandmother, and all the school directors after school that evening. So, discipline has disappeared in school. Gone from the home, gone from the schools and gone from society. "Thy sons are evil and you restrain them not." We are nurturing within our national bosom the serpent which will some day imprint his fangs within our national heart, and we shall go down to rise no more. In the name of Almighty God, you who hear this day, think about the consequences of our present course. Arouse to a sense of duty before it is too late. Let not the sun of disaster set upon our national hopes!

## WHAT DOES A HOME COST?

This past week the President of the United States stood before a large church council in Columbus, Ohio. He pointed out the need of religion in the life of Americans. He named the problems which confront us today. Among others, he referred to the serious matter of juvenile delinquency. He proposed to handle it by placing the responsibility where it belongs—upon the parents. Then he also mentioned that one way of solving the problem was by the erection of almost three million low-cost homes within the next two years. That is the goal of the government.

I am certain that when the President used the term "low-cost homes," he had reference to low-cost houses. The government can build houses but it cannot build homes. Only those who live within the houses can build the homes. Too many people in these days confuse the terms. They pass by and remark at what a beautiful home certain ones possess. Yet, the inhabitants who live within that structure may hate and envy one another. They have a nice looking house, but it takes a lot more than that to make a home, in the fullest sense of that word.

There is no such thing as a "low-cost home." Anyone who wants a home must be willing to pay the price, and that price is heavy. Homes are not built of bricks and wood and stone. They are built of hearts and love and life. They are made of sunshine and sorrow and sadness interwoven and intertwined. They are made of tears flowing down trembling faces, and smiles through those tears as someone loyally carries on. Homes are made up of moments and days and years! A carpenter can build a house, only deep affection can build a home.

*"It takes a heap o' livin' in a house to make it home,  
A heap o' sun and shadder; an' ye sometimes have to  
    roam  
Afore ye fully 'preciate the things ye leave behind  
And sorrow for 'em somehow, with 'em always on your  
    mind."*

A home in the fullest sense is a place where love rules supreme and where the inhabitants are always seeking to better themselves physically, mentally, morally and spiritually. The children are taught from lisping babyhood to respect their parents and to reverence God. The parents heed the divine admonition, "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). And there is the true secret of a happy home on earth, and of preparation for one in the world to come. Yet, this passage is greatly neglected today.

It is a divine command to teach your children the ways of the Lord. Your chief object as a father or mother should be to instruct your loved ones so they will live throughout eternity in bliss and joy. Any other aim is unworthy of those who are parents. But it is urged by a great many that they propose to let their children grow up without any teaching on matters religious, so that they can make an unbiased choice when they arrive at maturity.

Only recently over in Illinois a certain mother objected to the schools releasing the students for religious instruction. She declared, as does every atheist and irreligious individual, that to teach religion to children is to make them prejudiced. She said, as do they all, that such a course destroyed independence of thought and mind, and prevented the child making an impartial decision in later life. A few days ago I personally met a man who told me that he was not going to teach his child anything about God or the Bible. He said he did not believe in taking advantage of a youngster and attempting to force a way of life upon him while he was helpless and could not choose for himself.

But the command of God's Word is to "Train up the child in the way that he should go." How silly to ignore this teaching! Why not take the position that you'll not cultivate your garden? You'll just allow it to bring forth whatever it will, without any direction from you. After all, you know the soil or ground is helpless, and it cannot resist, so why take advantage of it and force it to bring forth what you want it to produce? You know that to employ such reasoning would mean that your garden would soon be a tangled mass of briars, thorns and thistles. And that's what

will happen to the virgin minds of your boys and girls, if the proper seed-thoughts are not sown therein.

Men do teach their offspring concerning a lot of things, you know. They insist that the children take arithmetic and chemistry and English. Why prejudice their minds on those matters? It may be that the children will not even wish to speak English when they grow up. It might be that they would favor some other tongue or dialect. Perhaps they will not want to figure arithmetic the way you do at all. It may be that they would rather assume that two plus two is five. Why, then, will you bias them in favor of the old idea that it makes four? On the basis of this modern reasoning, would it not be better to let their minds remain open on such matters until they arrive at the place where they can make their own choice relative to such problems? You can see the folly of that!

But those who take the absurd position in contradiction to the word of God do not abide by their own reasoning. The woman in Illinois did not conceal or hide her atheism from her little son. She objected to other people teaching their children religion because it would prejudice them. But she certainly did not let her own son remain without atheistic teaching, for he was called to the witness stand to testify in behalf of her reasoning. Even if you do not teach your child orally, you teach him by example. You prejudice your offspring against prayer when you refuse to pray; you teach against attendance at the house of God when you refuse to go; you show disrespect for the Bible when you refuse to read it, and you inculcate that feeling of disrespect in others by your very attitude.

I deny emphatically that you make your children narrow-minded and prejudiced when you teach them the truth of God. Of all the bigoted, arrogant, narrow-minded, biased individuals on earth, none is worse than the infidel who blatantly denies God and then tries to make one out of himself. It is ignorance and superstition which makes for prejudice and narrowness. Infidelity has never done a good deed or helped a single soul to happiness. If it did, it would be following the teachings of the Bible, for there is not a single good thing which God has not authorized.

Children are going to learn. They will find a source of knowledge. If the parent does not teach them, they will learn from another. The question is, then, merely whether it would be better for them to be taught by the father or by a stranger. Or, to put it another way, would it be better for them to be taught the truth by one who loves them, or error by one who does not care for them? There is but one reply to that!

I want you to note another thing about God's command. It is personal. It is direct! As fathers, you have something to do with bringing up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. You cannot relegate that wholly to others. There are many of you who think that you do your duty when you send your children to church. You can only do your duty when you TAKE them. Your refusal to go means that they will only wait for the time when they get old enough to remain away. You create in them the impression that church is not at all for men, that it's only for children.

When you have anything of value you pass it on to your children. You labor and strive to secure for them an earthly home. You lay up treasures which they may enjoy. You clothe them adequately against the blasts of winter. Do you not think that it is even more essential to clothe them against the storms of life? Do you not feel it necessary to teach them to lay up treasure in heaven? Should you not earnestly strive to have them enjoy an eternal home? If you give them other things of worth, should you neglect that teaching of the greatest value—the teaching which relates to the soul?

No responsibility has ever been given without a consequent account to be rendered. You must certainly, then, look forward to the time when you will stand before God's judgment bar and render an account for the deeds done in the body. But, moreover, you must also expect to answer to heaven's court for the example set before your children, for the teaching you have given them, and the way in which you have led them.

The solution to all of our difficulties in the world today lies within the pages of God's Book. To no other source can you go

and find the answer to our multitudinous problems. The problem of juvenile delinquency will not and cannot be settled until fathers and mothers come to an appreciation of the wonderful teachings of God. We plead with all who listen this day to hasten to God's Word and study the same, that you may grow in grace and knowledge and, by the impartation of God's truth, help your boys and girls to live the kind of lives demanded by the Lord in His Word. Start that kind of life today, for tomorrow may not come!

## THE DIVORCE EVIL

The scene was a small midwestern courtroom. The plaintiff was a comely young woman of twenty-two years. She was asking for a divorce from her husband, who was a year older. It was brought out in the testimony that they had met in a cocktail lounge and after a whirlwind courtship, spent in making the various night spots and taverns, they had married. Now that marriage was definitely "on the rocks." They had reached the parting of the ways! The husband had found another woman whom he liked better, the wife was asking for freedom that she might marry another man.

That scene is re-enacted hundreds, yes, thousands of times every year in the United States. Marriage is lightly entered into, quickly forgotten, and modesty, morality and spiritual values are trampled underfoot. It is obvious that permanent and stable companionship cannot be built out of the material which lolls around at the community tavern. Those who go to such places in their quest for happiness are only breeding sorrow for themselves in their after-life. Marriage is a sacred something. It should be so considered! The choice of a companion for the intimate relationships of husband and wife ought to be a matter of careful consideration and sincere meditation. It is better to be safe than sorry.

This nation is being undermined with the seepage of moral degradation. Like a cancer eating at the vitals, so the immorality of this age is consuming the very heart and strength of the land we love. Surely it is not amiss to point out the age-old truth that a country is built upon the homes which compose it. If the home-life is secure and happy, the nation will be also. But if the tie that binds us to each other is cut by the knife of distrust, or severed by the scissors of enmity, then our land lies prey to those who would destroy her.

We look with the utmost concern upon the rising tide of divorces with all of their sordid details and gruesome aftermaths. Promises are broken, covenants are disregarded, ideals are shattered, hopes are smashed, and we are developing a generation of wilful liars and positive prevaricators.

Such places as Reno, Nevada, are quagmires of moral filth. They are spots upon our nation and blights upon our commonwealth. Wilfully and maliciously, they advertise their poison wares and openly and brazenly peddle their merchandise of broken homes. How long will God let such a condition exist? Hollywood has glamorized divorce. It is the popular thing today to swap husbands like men used to trade horses. On the screen and in real life those who are actors place a thrilling brilliance around the unfaithful mates, and seek to make it appear that only prudes and puritans protest against divorce in this day. I charge that thereby those who collaborate in such schemes are making America a land of adulterers and adulteresses.

I want to notice the Bible teaching on the subject of divorce. I know of nothing more timely. Jesus is very plain in His teaching. He affirms that a man who divorces his wife and marries another becomes an adulterer. That is true in every case except in fornication of the one who was divorced. Let me read it to you, "Who-soever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery" (Matthew 19:9). There is no argument about that. Human speech could not make it any clearer. If you have divorced your wife for some trivial reason and married another woman, you have committed adultery. That's flat! It's plain! It's also gospel!



But you may ask if one marries a wife who has been put away by another man, is the second one who marries her guilty of adultery. Let us read, "Whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matthew 19:9). I read again, "Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery" (Matthew 5:32). Now, let's remember that if I put away my wife and marry another, I am guilty of adultery; if she marries another, she is guilty of adultery, and so is the one who marries her. That's why I affirm that this land is becoming full of persons who are tearing our nation asunder at the moral roots and are heading for the judgment of the Lord in that last day unprepared.

The Bible says, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators . . . nor adulterers . . . shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9). According to that, there are a lot of people who are deceiving themselves squarely against heaven's warning. Naturally, you think that you can break God's law and get by. I never knew a man who wanted to go wrong but what he thought that the gospel did not apply to his case. He thought he could commit the act and escape the penalty. But "there's an eye watching you!" "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. If we sow to the flesh, we shall of the flesh reap corruption." It is still true, as it has always been, that the "lust of the eye" and the "lust of the flesh" are not of the Father but are of the world. And the world passeth away and the lust thereof. Only he that doeth the will of the Father abideth forever.

You may ask what a man shall do when he finds that he and his wife can no longer live together. The Bible answers that. "Let not the wife depart from her husband, but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife" (1 Corinthians 7:11). We can all understand that. If you cannot live together you are to remain unmarried or be reconciled. Neither of you has the right in the sight of heaven to marry another. That is not my law. It is not the law of my brethren. It is the law of GOD! We accept it because He taught it.

A recent announcement said that in Chicago one of the divorce courts had established a nursery in connection therewith, that the children of those who were suing each other might have a chance to play. I know of nothing sadder. In one room, before a magistrate, stand those who accuse each other. Once they promised in the presence of God to be true to each other until death separated them. As a result of their union, little lives were brought into this world. Those little ones are innocent, helpless and happy in their childish ignorance. There they are in an adjoining room, playing gaily with toys, not knowing that a few steps from them their whole lives are being ruined because of the selfish attitude of those who were responsible for their being on earth. It is a shame that these must grow up without that proper parental care and love so essential in these days of strife and turmoil. No wonder the flames of juvenile delinquency are being fed with the bodies of boys and girls, when we think of the irresponsible parents we see on every hand.

The innocent must suffer with the guilty. The children are the flotsam and jetsam of the divorce maelstrom. Swept about in the eddying current of fighting and domestic strife, they grow up to feel that they are in the way. What wonder that they are tempted to depart from the path of virtue and rectitude! And yet, those boys and girls will be the backbone of our nation tomorrow. They are the fathers and mothers of the future. Can America continue to exist if we disregard those who will be our strength in the days that lie ahead?

Most of the divorces of this day could be avoided if men and women used a little good old-fashioned sense. You cannot find the ideal mate leaning over a tavern counter. If you want a home of stability you must select the material which is firm within itself. If you would go to church yourself and select those who are interested in the higher things of life, you would make it possible for your home to be a Christian home. And Christian homes are happy homes. You are asking for sorrow and disappointment when you attach yourself to someone who has no sense of responsibility.

Then, after marriage, learn the art of tolerance and forbearance. You cannot always have your way about everything. You

must realize the necessity of subjecting your will in many instances to that of another. Life is a "give and take" proposition. Marriage is for grownups, not for pouting babies. It will not cement your union to show a petulant attitude every time you are crossed in your desires. "Flying off the handle" will do no good. Cultivate a deep and genuine love for the one whom you are attached to, and know that life is made up of both sunshine and shadow. Love will settle every problem that ever arose on earth. It is the most potent force in the world. Cultivate it and the garden of your life will be filled with the fragrant blossoms of joy and happiness.

## DRUNKEN AMERICA

In this series of talks dealing with the storm clouds which hover over America, I would indeed be derelict in my duty if I did not point out that the increase of drunkenness is a threat to our national survival. And some of the things that I shall say in this connection are not going to meet the approval of a lot of my listeners. Yet, they will be undeniable as facts.

There is today, a conspiracy upon the part of the liquor interests in this nation, to enslave as many individuals as possible with the chains of bondage to intoxicants. And I want to make clear my sentiments. The liquor interests have always been upon the side of rebellion to law. Even when there is stringent enforcement, which necessitates compliance with the statutes, they are seeking methods and means by which they can offset and overthrow the laws, and thus carry on the nefarious trade which breaks up homes and tends to demoralize the life of a nation.

I recall the glowing promises made by those who were working for the repeal of the Prohibition Amendment. Some of those who so enthusiastically supported the doing away with the restrictions contained therein told us a lot of things which they have apparently long since forgotten. But I recall them, and I want to make them swallow a few of their damnable lies, for that is exactly

what they were. And if there are those who are made to appear as liars by what I say, then all you need to do in order to get out of that class is to quit your lying, and confess your guilt, and what I say will no longer affect you.

We were told that if we would just do away with the amendment and permit the open sale of liquor, that the national and state budgets would be balanced and we would have money in the treasuries, and to spare. But what is the truth of the situation today? We find ourselves virtually a bankrupt nation, and only God knows what the future will hold for us, insofar as recovery is concerned. True, we have just fought a costly war, and that has taken a lot of money, but if I remember anything about it, we were going in debt billions of dollars before the war, and that debt was being piled up by the very ones who were instrumental in repealing the amendment and promising that there would be no future national debt, if only we could derive the taxation from the sale of liquor. I challenge those who said that to point to a single nation which has paid its debts by the sale of liquor. Will they challenge me to name nations which have gone down in dissolution and ruin because their people have been full of drunkenness and debauchery?

Another lie that was circulated should be remembered by a lot of you. It was said that we must get rid of the bootlegging dives and that the saloon would not come back. What about it? I tell you that there are some of the worst saloons operating today right in this section that have ever been in existence; cheap, low dives where men are murdered, blackmailed, and their lives and characters ruined. The condition is infinitely worse than in the old days. Now the bartenders are women and girls, and since it is the women who set the moral standard for a nation, I tell you that we are nearer on the road to hell than we ever were before.

If these places aren't saloons, I want to ask you what they are. Darkened windows with just enough of an open slit to comply with the law; dirty, dank, foul with the vomit of men who couldn't hold their liquor—what are such places? And if you refer to the cocktail lounges and tell me that you frequent them, I demand of you that you tell me the difference between them and a glorified

saloon. It isn't what you call a place that makes it a saloon. Call it "Bloody Bucket," "Blue Goose," "Klondike" or "Blind Tiger," as they used to be called in the country where I was born, or call it "Buffet," "Lounge" or some other elevating title, it makes no difference. It is what is sold there that makes it a saloon. It isn't the name of the place that makes men go staggering down the street, or home to beat their wives and children. It isn't the name it bears that causes men to stab and shoot each other in a drunken stupor. It's the stuff that's sold, and the stuff they drink. And fixing up the most beautiful cocktail lounge in the country will not help those who are too drunk to see the pictures, and too intoxicated to stand up.

And then we were told that there would be no more bootlegging. And to think that some people were silly, asinine and ridiculous enough to fall for that poppycock! Has bootlegging ceased? What about the truckload of liquor that was picked up not very long ago, enroute from Missouri to dry Kansas? What about the liquor that was peddled to soldiers even in camp where the area was restricted? What about the whiskey that was kept under the counter of places not licensed to sell it, and then brought out for those who were "in the know" with the proprietor?

Did the repeal of the Prohibition Amendment stop bootlegging? Did it? Come on, you arm-swinging orators, you small-time politicians who promised us that this evil would be squelched, killed, crucified and buried underneath the flood of law-abiding citizens—tell us if you told the truth. And if you say that bootlegging has stopped, suppose you tell us where these high school boys and girls are getting their bottles? It cannot be sold legally to one under a certain age. Where are they getting it, if they are not getting it illegally? And isn't the illegal sale of liquor "bootlegging"? If it isn't, I defy you to define bootlegging!

And if there's no bootlegging or illegal sales of liquor, how does it happen that in St. Louis the police regularly raid joints, and even those places that are licensed, and pick up the managers and frequenters for the illegal sales they are making? What about those places with the back doors where you can sneak in on Sunday, or after closing hours, if you know the old boy who runs the

place? That's bootlegging, isn't it? Then it hasn't ceased, has it? And again I say that someone was either ignorant, or else a malicious falsifier. No, you won't like that either, but what can you do about it? You know it's the truth! Of course, you might band together and get me tossed off the air because liquor companies today have the best time purchased on radio, and the best space in the newspaper, but that isn't going to keep me from speaking what I know while I can talk! I'm not a politician, and I don't intend to become an ear-tickling preacher, either. I'll not sacrifice my soul or the souls of my children for popularity or your good-will.

And while I'm on the business of nailing falsehoods, I want to remind you that we were also told that if we would just permit the return of liquor we would solve the crime problem. It was advocated that there would be a tremendous decrease in crimes of all kinds. Did the prophecy come true? Look at the facts! Study the figures! We are right now engaged in one of the worst crime waves in the history of our nation. And it threatens to get worse all of the time. Is liquor playing any part in it?

If you deny that it is, I ask you what you'll say about the drunk who was found carrying the nude form of the little three-year-old girl down the alley, after he had attempted rape? What about those two little children who were reported playing in their backyard at dark the other night, barefoot and with insufficient clothing on? Where did the police find their parents? That's right, guzzling beer at a neighborhood tavern, where they had gone, leaving their children for hours at a time. What about the soldiers and sailors who were beaten, knifed and shot right in St. Louis after drunken brawls in these saloons which are supposed to be such excellent regulators of human conduct, such magnificent, law-abiding establishments?

I had occasion to go down Broadway avenue a few nights ago. It was just a little before midnight. Taverns were operating with bars lined with patrons, and juke boxes blaring. But on that one short trip I saw two cases of indecent exposure by drunks on the street, and a genuine brawl with a number of loud-mouthed, fighting individuals was going on in front of one of the joints. Crime is on the increase! And liquor is playing its part in the increase just as

it always has. There's no use of trying to smooth it out or talk around it. Liquor has always been on the side of criminality and always will. It is responsible directly for many of the crimes of passion which are committed today, and indirectly responsible for many others. It shadows our land like a dark cloud betokening the approach of destruction and desolation. It must be warned against, opposed and fought as a damaging element. To that fight I dedicate my feeble energies, but my strong faith in the right!

## MORE LIES REFUTED

Since I did not get through in my former talk on the subject of the miserable misrepresentations, fallacious falsehoods, and pusillanimous prevarications of those who have conspired to sell America down the river into intoxicating bondage, I'll just take another swipe at that trafficking in the souls of men, which is so common on the part of the highly-touted and widely-advertised liquor interests in this nation. I have pointed out that all of the glorious promises made to us concerning prosperity and happiness by the sale of intoxicating beverages have been shown to be "pots of gold" at the end of imaginary rainbows. None of them have ever been realized nor can they be. And still we are treading that long road which leads to destruction, and few there are who have the courage to come out and express themselves on these vital issues.

Today I want to drop another little "atom bomb" or two into the camps of the smug, self-centered, law-evading groups who rejoice at what they call their "personal freedom" which gives them the right to puke on my sidewalk, throw whiskey bottles on the street that I drive on, come careening down the highway and smash into my car, or cripple my children. I want you to know that I still have a little "personal freedom" left, and if drunken drivers have a right to exercise theirs, I'll follow suit and exercise a little of mine by telling them what I think of them, and the damnable interests that make them what they are. There are two sides to every question. You hear the other side over the air, and see it in your papers all of the time. Now have the grace to listen

to our side of it for a moment, before you turn off the dial and shut us out because you haven't the intestinal fortitude to take it!

One of the biggest falsehoods ever crammed down the throats of an all too gullible public was the one foisted off on us, when we were told that the permission to sell liquor would mean that there would be no drinking among young people since no sales would be made to minors. And there are a few who are silly enough to think that there is less drinking among our high school boys and girls. I deny that, sorry as I am to make the statement.

I charge that this government has actually encouraged drinking among young men, and women as well. Will the government officials deny that at the time when our boys were on some of the far-away Pacific islands that they sent in boat loads of beer, when those fellows were crying for meat and food of a substantial nature? Will they deny that officers detailed men who had never worked in such places to help unload and sell that slop, and thus made bartenders out of lads who came from Christian homes, and hated the sight of liquor of any description? No, they won't deny it, because they know that all of those men, who were starving for milk, who had no fresh meat, looked with longing eyes toward the supply ships, only to be disappointed in a lot of cases—cases of beer. And some of those lads were eighteen and nineteen years of age. The liquor interests published statements to the effect that the war gave them an opportunity to spread the sale of their products to some who had not been drinkers before. The idea of taking boys from Christian homes and then plotting and planning to send them home as tavern-addicts and bar-flies! But they'll not deny that they said that. If they do, let them challenge for the proof of these statements on the air!

Why was it that Angelo Patri, in a syndicated article, said, "What I am asking for now is the protection of youth from liquor, gambling and prostitution. I believe that the government, having removed these young people from their families, is duty bound to throw every protection about them, that they may remain healthy in body and mind. That is not too much to ask. It is but a measure of self-protection. A debauched youth is a menace to the nation, and to the world at large." Why did he ask for this pro-



tection? Simply because he knew that gamblers, drink purveyors and prostitutes flocked around these camps to take advantage of men who were being trained in body but were still immature in mind and morals.

And then it is urged that after all the government did not send whiskey. It did sanction the shipping of beer, but we are told that this cannot rightly be classed as intoxicating. Are you silly enough to believe that? Don't you know that accident after accident brings men and women into court, only to have them testify that all they had was "a couple of beers"? Insofar as the eyesight and nerve reaction is concerned, you could advertise truthfully that "beer is the drink that blears and blurs." There are taverns right in this area which sell booze to boys and girls. In St. Louis County where I live, you can pass by joints on the way home from church and there are high school lads hanging around and lolling over the bar or tables. The law is blind in a great many instances, I fear. But don't let anyone make you believe that since the Prohibition Amendment was strangled that drinking is confined only to the adult portion of our population!

We were also informed, you'll remember, that with the advent of liquor sales, disrespect for the law would cease. It was reasoned that prohibition made bootleggers, bootleggers violated the law, and that when bootleggers were put out of business, disrespect for law would also be on the way out. That's simon-pure tommyrot, stinking to high heaven with the putrid ignorance of those who invented it as a cloak of maliciousness. All we need to ask is the question: Is there any disrespect for law today? Has the open sale of liquor lessened that disrespect? How about Chicago, with a murder a day for a long stretch of time this year? How about our own St. Louis? Is there any disrespect for law in it yet? Is there?

How about those two small-time gangsters who were shot to death in their automobile out in the county? Did the repeal of prohibition stop gangsterism? Isn't there a slot-machine racket of the worst kind in this area right now, and aren't some of the officers in on the pay-off? Isn't there still an investigation going on of one of the largest policy-making rackets in our history? I thought

all that was supposed to cease when we got rid of prohibition. You who are connected with the liquor interests have forgotten those glowing promises, haven't you? I'll be happy to call them to your attention again!

Aren't there more unsolved murders on the police records right now than there have been for years? What about that little girl who was brutally murdered and ravished? What about those two would-be tough men who were killed right on St. Louis streets? Liquor selling hasn't stopped crime!

I know what a lot of you are saying! You are sitting right in front of your radios, talking to yourselves. You are asking what business this is of mine. I have no doubt that you'll write me a letter like I got not long ago, in which a gentleman said, "Why don't you preach the gospel and let others alone?" That's what the devil yelled at Jesus, "Why have you come hither to torment us before the time? Why don't you go on about your work and let us enjoy ourselves?" Those demons have passed out of the land. But there are other demons still on earth, and the demon of drink is one of them. But the devil hasn't changed any. He's still yelling to be left alone.

I'll tell you why I preach so straight upon these matters. It's because I believe in fighting sin. So does the Church of Christ, with which I am affiliated. And someone has to fight, because there are too many pussycooting, compromising, anything-goes-with-us preachers in the pulpits today. Men are afraid to fight evil any more. They have listened like Saul to the voice of the people. They have hearkened to the clamor of the multitude, crying, "Prophesy unto us smooth things." There are too many who want to go hand-in-hand with Christ and the devil at the same time.

Too many members of the church go to listen to a week-kneed temperance sermon, then go home and mix a cocktail. Too many preachers smile at the membership when they throw a party and have their liquor there! The contemptible hypocrisy of those who talk dry and drink wet; who talk for temperance and vote for liquor; that's what makes the task harder for those who dare to

stand out for right and truth. But I'm not afraid of the job—not for a minute. I accept the challenge, and accept it gladly, and I shall attempt to point out the dangers which confront us as long as I have the power to do so.

If those who claim to love America and to be Christians were really united, we could gain an easy victory over sin. But we are too busy with the affairs of this life to care much for what Christ says. We are too preoccupied with our own concerns and businesses to care about the kind of a world in which our children must grow up. And so we go on, dancing the dance of death, like whirling dervishes, getting closer to the flames of hell. God save America!

## A PLEASURE-MAD WORLD

It seems to me that one of the worst indications of national decadence is found in the apparent inability of any people to establish a proper sense of values. When things which are harmful are exalted, and those which are helpful are ignored, it is evident that destruction must be the inevitable result. The God of heaven knew this, and long years ago spoke through His prophet, saying, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter. Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink. . . . Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble and the flame consumeth the chaff so their root shall be as rottenness and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 5:20-24).

It is impossible for any people to continue to merit God's blessing when they turn their backs upon His law and choose the things of this life which are the result of catering to the flesh and the lusts thereof. Yet that is exactly what our nation is doing today. I recall that the great apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy, chap-

ter three, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." Among the indications of such days, this is listed, "Men shall be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." And this review ends with the sad warning, "They shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men." When God gets ready to call a halt, this old world will have to answer for the fact that it trampled underfoot the Son of God, and counted the blood of the covenant an unholy thing!

There are many who deny the affirmations that we make. They choose like the ostrich to stick their heads in the sand and refuse to see the signs of the times. Like men who are blindfolded and being led to the scaffold, they imagine only that they are in for new thrills and greater joys, not knowing that impending doom will soon tighten its noose around their necks. To those who question the statements that we make concerning America, I should like to mention a few undeniable facts.

A syndicated article released last week told of the madness which enveloped Miami, Florida, during the winter season just closing. Pleasure-mad men and women flocked to this mecca of the tourist, many of them with pockets and purses bulging with greenbacks made on the black market, or garnered in as the result of other types of illegal manipulation. At one race track alone, the average daily attendance was 19,750 and the average mutuel intake from betting was \$1,332,700. That's almost a million and a half dollars per day at one track. And while this was going on and frenzied persons were lining up at the \$50 gate to place their bets, millions of people in other parts of the world were starving, or searching the garbage cans and waste heaps for minute portions of discarded food.

The reporter further said, and I quote, "The other night when I visited the Colonial Inn, more than 250 men and women, most of them middle-aged, were crowded around the tables in the handsome gaming room. The inn is said to have profited by \$3,000,000 from gambling alone this year." He continued, "According to one veteran, who, like most of the playboys here, frequented the beach or track by day and the gaming rooms by night, one well-known comedian went \$38,500 in the hole at a hot dice game at the

Colonial, and so heavy was the betting and so fast the turn of fortune, left an hour later \$3,000 ahead." And that's just one place in this great nation. There are many others like it!

One doesn't need to go to Florida to see the signs of moral dissolution. There is plenty of evidence of that within the environs of our own city. Did you ever stop to think that there are not enough seats in all the church buildings combined to seat half the people of this area, and yet I venture to say to you that not a third of the seats that are available will be filled tonight at the close of the Lord's Day. As I came to the studio today I saw in front of two theatres, long lines of people waiting for the opportunity to purchase tickets. It has been a long time since I have seen block-long lines standing in front of a church waiting to get in to worship God on Sunday night.

There may be some of you who ask, "What's the difference?" You will no doubt argue that there can be no harm come from parents sending their children to a theatre on Sunday afternoon if they wish. I question that! I know that I'm due to be tagged old-fashioned. Some of you will say that I am an old mossback, and fifty years behind the times. But I'll say what I wish, even if that is true, and one of the things I wish to say is that I consider the influence of Hollywood today as detrimental to our morals as any single factor in our country.

If you deny that, I need only point out to you the suggestiveness and the double-meaning in the very titles of some of the shows so widely advertised. In one edition of your local paper appeared these: "Getting Gertie's Garter," and it was sub-titled, "Most hilarious bedroom farce ever"; "She Wouldn't Say Yes"; "Shady Lady"; "Vacation from Marriage"; and a host of others. You may say these are perfectly innocent pictures, but whether they are or not, you know and I know that they are titled thus because this country is wading through the mire of sex filth, and bait is constantly thrown before young and old on the subject. If that isn't the purpose, then I ask you why the bills on the outside of the theaters always feature some half-naked, body-exposed woman in romantic proximity to the leading man—lots of times himself portraying a gangster or moral rake? Come on, answer

that, a lot of you good church members who sing so loud on Sunday morning, "Anywhere with Jesus I Can Safely Go," and then run like fools to get your dinner, so you won't miss the matinee. You don't like that, do you? I'm asking you if you'll deny the truthfulness of my statement?

Listen to God's Word as it came to another sinful nation, "I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib, but Israel doth not know, My people doth not consider. A sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters, they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward."

And now, let us hear the admonition, "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:16-18).

God is not asleep. He knows our conduct, and our punishment will be sure and certain if we do not return to Him before it is too late. It seems to us as we read the judgments of old that the voice of heaven is speaking for this very day and time. Listen once more! "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands."

Isn't that a pretty good description of a modern dance? Those who attend, drop in for a little shot of liquor in the morning, they continue to drink a few highballs during the day, until the liquor has inflamed them by night. Then there are the various instruments of music that are mentioned, and the wine which accompanies the refreshments—but they regard not the work of the Lord!

One of the saddest reports to me in the great World War just finished was that concerning Alexandria in Egypt. The news report said that at the time the German Army was but a few miles from the city, and the forces of the British were attempting to stem the tide of the advance. The sound of the guns could be heard like thunder in the streets of the city, but all was gay there. With death tapping its bony knuckles at the very doors, there were those who were still oblivious of destruction awaiting—dancing, drinking, shouting at the very brink of the grave.

Then I remembered this statement of Jesus, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the days when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:26-30).

## THE SWORD OF DAMOCLES

I'm sure that a lot of my listeners in their early days have played the childish game which requires one to say to all of the other players, "Heavy, heavy hangs over your head." I'm wondering if in the dim and distant past that party game might have been an allusion to a real occurrence, which I wish to relate in order to emphasize the point I am making today.

Back in the days of Dionysius the Elder, in ancient Syracuse, there lived a man by the name of Damocles. He was one of the courtiers and a great flatterer of the tyrant. Once when he was boasting about the happiness which had been brought to the city under the reign of Dionysius, and extolling the grandeur of his court, he was invited by the tyrant to come to a special banquet which would be prepared in his honor. Pleased beyond words,

swelled with pride, Damocles could hardly wait until the appointed time. When he finally arrived at the royal banquet hall he saw a magnificent feast. He was thrilled to the core of his being with the regal fare and the royal honors conferred upon him. In the midst of the entertainment, however, he chanced to cast his eyes upward and there above his head there was suspended a naked, gleaming sword, hanging by a single hair. Dismayed, he almost choked upon the morsel of food which he had in his mouth. Throughout the meal, the sense of impending doom lay so heavy upon him that he resolved never again to covet the favors of life by flattery. He had learned his lesson. The enjoyments and pleasures of this world may only be purchased at the expense of mental peace and personal security.

There are many today who have a shred of conscience left. Their contemplated enjoyment of lust has been ruined, their hope of pleasure turned to ashes by the sword of Damocles which was over their heads. The pronouncement of God's woe is suspended above the wretched heads of those today who seek to violate His law and become friends of that which is tempting and temporal. There are many who are in the church and yet desire the pleasures of sin. You must make your choice; you cannot have both the fellowship of the saints and still breathe the polluted air of devils. You cannot live on the mountain tops and walk in the swamps.

Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other" (Matthew 6:24). Hundreds of years before Christ, the prophet upon Mount Carmel addressed the vacillating Israelites with the stirring words, "Why halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God then follow Him; but if Baal be god then worship him." Joshua, that noble leader of the ancient people of Jehovah, stood before them and said, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

The choice must be made! It must be made by each person! It must be made by that individual himself! Only you can choose the course that you will travel! But if you choose the pleasures of this life, look upward and see if the sword of wrath and retribu-



tion is suspended above your head. The Bible is uncompromising. It declares, "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4). And once more in that same chapter, verses 15 to 17, we find, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." James makes it even a little stronger in chapter four, verse four, of his epistle, when he declares, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

Now, in view of all of this plain teaching, why is it that those who profess to love God still indulge in sin? Why do they stifle their consciences, and overthrow their better judgment, and partake of the forbidden fruit offered to them by Satan? I reply that everyone who so does is deceiving himself. He flatters himself that he can do those things which are condemned of God and still get by. He thinks that he can avoid the penalty. He forgets the sword that hangs over his head. He thinks of the present and refuses to consider the future.

Few persons would sip the first drop of the nectar of transgression if they knew what the result would be when they had finished the cup to its bitter dregs. But many think they will take but one drop or two of that which is pleasant and then stop before it is too late. The lust of passion which breaks so many hearts, and wrecks so many lives would not be given full sway if it were not that those who start think they can control the finish. The first embrace, the first illegal kiss, promising a thrill and affording a stimulation to all that is physical, these would be looked upon as tempters of the deepest and darkest hue, if men could but see into the veiled future and know that such in its ultimate meant hours of bitter weeping, nights of sleepless remorse, and the eternity of a flaming, never-ending hell of punishment. Look up, man, and see the naked sword hanging over your head as you feast upon the forbidden pleasures of this sin-cursed earth.

Don't wreck your life, don't tear asunder your home, don't endanger your future by sin of passion! Listen to the words of the wisest monarch who ever lived. "For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: but her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are movable, that thou canst not know them. Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thy way from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: lest thou give thine honor to others, and thy years unto the cruel: lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labors be in the house of a stranger; and thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, and say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; and have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to them that have instructed me" (Proverbs 5:3-13).

The apostle writing my inspiration knew whereof he spoke when he said, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption, and he that soweth to the spirit, shall of the spirit, reap life everlasting." It is true today, it will be true tomorrow that a man reaps what he sows in this life. You cannot choose the crop, you can only choose the seed! The seed is planted now, the crop will be reaped tomorrow. It may take but a little time to plant, but you may have to reap throughout all eternity. How many men there are who have spent a lifetime of regret with wasted energy, decaying bodies, and ever present death staring them in the face, for just one wild fling! David only made one moral mistake, but it haunted him through life, and still gives infidels a club with which to fight back at God's Word.

The sword of Damocles is hanging over the head of all who are guilty of sin this day. But, sad to relate, many never look up to see it. And still sadder to say, there are many who resent deeply the advice of those who are their best friends. They count as enemies those who would save their souls, and the very act of condemnation of wrong is looked upon as personal hatred. Not so!

You never had a better friend than the one who seeks to save you from doom. You will never find one who loves you more, than he who seeks to warn you from a fate that is worse than death in this life, and only death in the next world! If you are tempted to stray from the path of rectitude, remember these words that have been spoken today, and halt your step before you plunge into a chasm of sin and disappointment.

If you have already made such a mistake, let me plead with you to remedy it now. You have not committed an unpardonable sin. Return to your God! If you have brought tears to the eyes of someone who loves you, wipe away those tears today, by your penitence. Restore the glad smiles that have meant so much to you in the days gone by. If you men who listen have considered that you can sin and get by, wipe that fool notion from the slate of your heart. You cannot do it. "Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let them be only thine own and not strangers with thee. Rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He pondereth all his goings" (Proverbs 5:15-21). God knows even though the world does not. You can't do wrong and get by!

## UNCONCERN FOR THE LOST

A few days ago I was talking to a former sailor who had recounted for me some of the experiences through which he had gone in his life as a bluejacket for Uncle Sam. Among other things which impressed me, one was outstanding. It related to an untiring search which was made for three men who had radioed that their plane was going down, and they were being forced to "bail out." The sailor told me that rescue vessels were immediately dispatched to the proximity of the location given in the message and that they searched the surface of the sea untiringly, by day and by night, until they finally located and saved the men from the sunken plane. Truly, it is impressive to consider the efforts put forth when the lives of men are at stake.

Probably many of you recall having seen the picture, this past week, of the little lad who was located after hours and hours of weary searching. The smile upon the face of the father who held his little son was refreshing, indeed, when one considers that the same issue of the newspaper carried a picture of three little youngsters who were being given away because their parents said that they were too much trouble. The little lad who was found had been locked in a schoolhouse for three days and nights. How joyous he was at his delivery! What rejoicing there was at his restoration to his parents! Hundreds of persons had dropped their work and gone forth in the search. They had combed every nook and cranny of the town where a boy might be hidden. And their efforts were rewarded with success.

And yet, as I think of these things, there comes to my heart a pang of sadness, for it brings home to me more than ever the sacrifice that we will make to save the earthly life of those whom we have never even seen, and the feeble efforts we are willing to make to save the souls of men for all eternity. There are hundreds and thousands who have gone down into the ocean of life, who are battered and storm-tossed, despairing and despondent, and few indeed are the rescuers who are seeking and saving that which is lost. We are too busy with our farms, our stores, our offices to try and save those who are about us. We are unconcerned about the souls of men.

There are many who are locked up in the prison house of sin. Some of them are but waiting for those who have the key to release them. But they have been in bondage by day and by night through long years, and yet no one has been willing to take the time to search them out, and restore them to the loving arms of the Father above.

Many of us think more of an animal than we do of an immortal soul. If a farmer finds one of his cows not up at the gate for milking time, he drops all else and goes and searches for the lost until it is found. I saw a man and woman a short time back who were frantically searching for a lost dog. The man was worried deeply, and the woman had been crying. But I doubt that either of them has ever worried about a lost neighbor. Perhaps they

would think it foolish to weep over a man who had gone astray. Jesus knew this tendency in all of us. He said, "What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the Sabbath day, will he not lay hold of it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep?" (Matthew 12:11, 12). There's a question from the greatest "Seeker of Souls" the world has ever known. What will your answer be to the query? There are many who are in the pit of sin and degradation. Have you ever laid hold upon one such? Have you ever lifted a person like that up and out of the pit?

The wave of unconcern which is sweeping our world today portends a serious future for humanity. The farther from the principles of Christ and the gospel we get, the closer we get to destruction. And that we are nearing the brink may be seen by a comparison of our lives with the simple and fundamental pronouncements of safety set forth by the Son of God. He declared that the first and greatest commandment was to love God, with all the heart, soul and might. But He did not stop there. He said the second commandment was like the first. It is to love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments all others are based. They constitute the peg from which the others are suspended.

What is the first thing you do when you fall? Is it not to try and get up? But when you cannot arise of your own strength, what do you do? Certainly you cry for help. Now it stands to reason that if you would try and rise when you are down, and if you love your neighbor as yourself, that you should try to raise him also when he has fallen. Yet many are the cries for help that have been raised, and gone unheeded. On the modern Jericho road we find those who have been prey to the devil and have been stripped of their faith and honor, but we come and look upon them and pass by on the other side!

Many in the church think that soul-saving is the work of preachers. I deny that. If it is purely the work of preachers, then we might as well give it all up as a bad job. Preachers have been trying to save the world for the last two thousand years, and look what a mess it's in today. Soul-saving is the job of every Christian! It is your job if you are a child of heaven. It is a personal

matter. In the early church the Book says, "They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word." What was the result? They toppled pagan Rome from the throne, overturned the temples of idolatry and captured the world for Christ in that day. But we are too sophisticated to do that now. We have to hire a man to preach for us while we sit back and take our ease in Zion. We no longer have time to study the Bible, being too preoccupied with the affairs of this life. We can talk to our friends about tire rationing, the sugar shortage, the possibility of another war, the current events of the day, but we cannot talk about heaven and our final destiny. The unconcern for the future of others hovers like a dark cloud upon the horizon of the world, and betokens the storm which shall some day break about our unprepared heads.

There are actually parents who never seem to worry or care about the fate of their children. How sad to see those who provide food for the stomach and let the soul starve! How tragical to know that there are those who build a mansion to house their loved ones, and neglect the mansion prepared for the faithful over there! How deplorable is the reasoning of those who educate their little ones for life in the business world and forget the greatest business in all the world, the vocation of Christian living! Of what use will a knowledge of the arts and sciences be if you stand before the great Judge and hear Him say, "Depart from Me"? What boon will be yours if you live in the most beautiful home in this city, but cannot enter the city gates of New Jerusalem?

If the world is to be won for Christ, if Satan's forces are to be overthrown in this generation, every Christian must realize a personal responsibility in the fight. There are too many who are passive. The modern pastor system has throttled the development of the army of the Son of God. We must have more consecrated, sanctified, sincere activity by all who have enlisted under the banner of the King. This is a big job, it is a job for everyone who has set to his seal that God is true. When the church gets to the place where God intended for it to be, self-edifying, self-maintaining, self-perpetuating; when every member realizes his duty to study the Bible, to tell his fellow-men about the Savior; when all live the Christian life every day instead of one day per week; when we

preach Christ in the factory, the office, on the street and wherever we meet those in need of Him, then we can begin to look for the golden day of peace and world-rejoicing.

But just as long as we create a group of professional ministers, and we talk about "our pastor," "our minister," and reverence men above God, just that long the world will continue in the blighting paths of sin and we will not be able to save it. I call upon you who love the Lord this day to come all the way back to the teaching of the truth of God. You cannot support those who are parasites upon the tree of righteousness and have enough strength left to go forth and take the gospel to the world as you should. Men are dying in sin. Death is certain, eternity is sure. The judgment is coming. What are you doing about it? No, not what is your minister doing—but, what are YOU doing? Those who are saved must save others; those who have been rescued must rescue others, those who have been found must find others. Will you leave this world with no sheaves of eternal grain to your credit? Will you face your Maker in the last day like the unfruitful fig tree, bearing "nothing but leaves"?

"Say not there are yet four months unto the harvest, for I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look; for, behold, the fields are white already unto the harvest. But pray ye that the Lord of the harvest may send forth reapers, for truly the harvest is great but the reapers are few."

## TWENTIETH CENTURY IDOLATRY

One who reads the Old Testament is impressed with the fact that God's people were continually in danger of being led off and seduced to the worship of the false gods of the nations about them. It seems that the burden of the whole Old Testament is a continuous fight against idolatry of every description. To us it seems an unnatural thing that men should bow down before a calf of gold. It seems the height of the ridiculous that a nation should be given to adoration of lower animals as was Egypt. They wor-

shipped bulls, crocodiles, hippopotami, cats, and even the dung beetle. When a sacred cat died, its body was embalmed and attired with golden chains, and placed in a tomb. When a man died, a figure of a beetle made of gold or jade was placed upon his chest, for it was thought that this creeping thing was the god of the resurrection. How weird and silly such things appear to us in these days! Yet, the very nation which believed in the one true God was led into the worship of such idols time after time again.

The prophet Jeremiah revealed the word of the Lord in this fashion, "Will a man leave the snow of Lebanon which cometh from the rock of the field? or shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken? Because My people have forgotten Me, they have burned incense unto vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up" (Jeremiah 18:14, 15). Again we hear Isaiah declaim, "Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made" (Isaiah 2:8).

What was the result when this nation wholly gave itself over to the serving of false gods? Let us read, "For thus saith the Lord concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning the mothers that bare them, and concerning the fathers that begat them in this land; They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth; and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth" (Jeremiah 16:3, 4).

In the face of all that I have read, I want to charge this day that America is one of the most idolatrous nations in the present world. I know that some of you will resent that. You think that I am a prophet of doom, a joy-killer, a melancholy croaker looking with pessimistic attitude at once of the greatest nations in history. But I speak seriously today, for it seems to me that if ever America needed to talk and think that way, it is now! It is characteristic of us that we exalt ourselves; we boast about our mighty



structures, our wealth, our natural resources, our beautiful architectural monuments. So did Germany. Today those things lie in twisted masses of steel and piles of rubble. Tomorrow we may do the same. With the unleashing of atomic energy, we now live in a world which can be sent into oblivion in the twinkling of an eye. And, people, unless we get back to God and turn from the idols of this day, we shall certainly pay the penalty.

But you urge that we do not worship images of wood or stone. You say that we do not prostrate ourselves before graven idols. Neither do we fall down before molten gods of silver and gold. All of that is true. But, mind you, that is not the only type of idolatry in the world. It is possible for a man to even set up an image in his heart. Hear the word of the Lord, "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumbling-block of their iniquity before their face" (Ezekiel 14:3). Idolatry is the worship of anything that comes between you and your worship of God. It is that which you adore most of all, that which you love and for which you make sacrifices of time and money above everything else.

Are there idols of this kind in our land today? Let us see. I charge that one of the outstanding types of modern idolatry is that which makes senseless fools out of those who bow at the shrine of the Goddess of Fashion. There are those whose hearts are naked and exposed but whose bodies are covered with the latest design in raiment. What is it that makes women sell their modesty just to be able to copy the repugnant clothing styles set by a group of immoral rakes and profligates in Paris, one of the most ungodly cities in the present world? Why is it that our women and girls must pattern after those things which were perhaps first introduced by shameless streetwalkers and prostitutes? Why do women spend their husbands' pay checks and reduce them to poverty just to get the "latest thing from Hollywood"? They are devotees of the temple of fashion. They are worshipping at the shrine of one who dominates their career through life and even follows it to the grave.

Many a widow has spent her last cent to purchase an expensive casket and provide an elaborate funeral service for her deceased

husband when she could not afford it. Why? Did it make the dead man feel any better? Did he appreciate any more the costly box in which he was placed? Did the expensive flowers make him rest easier? No, but it is the fashionable thing to do. We wonder what the neighbors would say if we provided a simple service and a plain casket. We're afraid they would talk about it behind our backs. So we doom our children to starvation rations and we go to a great length even to bow before fashion in death. How ridiculous all of this must seem to God!

And when you seriously think about it, how silly it all is on earth! But it is also a matter of grave concern! For it is a law of worship that we become more like the one thing we worship every time we engage in reverence of that thing. So our boys and girls are taught to worship Hollywood, with its actors and actresses. They ape the dress of the male and female stars! They pattern after their lives! And thus there is creeping over America today a deadly wave of sin. Women have discarded modesty. They want to wear clothes like men, and do. They smoke cigarettes and stain their fingers with nicotine. Their breath has become like the foul stench that issues forth from the doors of an open tomb, betraying the rottenness and decay that is going on within. They stand at the bars and sit in the cocktail lounges, and so-called decent women today indulge in the kind of profanity on the streetcars and in public buses which would have caused prostitutes of yesterday to be locked up for disturbing the peace. But it's fashionable now! Isn't it peculiar what we can be made to stomach and tolerate after seeing it a while?

When I was a youngster down on granddad's farm, he always got up and started to town real early. He drove a team of mules and he wanted to get in to town and back again before the few automobiles got out and started circulating around. I recall that once we met one of those then "new-fangled machines" and when granddad heard it coming, he drove the buggy up against a telephone pole, so that one mule was on either side. Then he got out and held their heads in check with the bridle straps. Even at that, they almost kicked the slats out of the old rig. In those days there was a law that when an automobile approached a buggy, the car owner must come to a stop, get out and lead the team past his

machine. But you don't have to do that anymore. Why? Because the mules have been through the years accustomed to the sight of automobiles and they no longer fear them. They accept them now as being commonplace. Familiarity breeds contempt, they say!

We're a lot like mules in some respects. Things which once shocked our sense of morals no longer affect us unduly. We become seared over with a hot iron and no longer register. When women parade around in the street with not enough clothes on to wad an old-fashioned shotgun, or to flag a handcar, we dismiss it with a wave of the hand, and say, "Oh, that's the fashion now!" And the greatest wave of immorality is sweeping our country which we have ever known. Cases of rape and attack of the person last year climbed to staggering proportions. It is sad to say, but true, that women have invited the disrespect to their persons, and they are now suffering what they've invited. You cannot be an idolator and serve God at the same time.

People, in the name of common decency, in the name of purity, in the name of commonsense, if you have no respect for yourself, even if you think it is attractive to expose the warts and moles and knock-knees and pimply epidermis which you possess, to all and sundry, why can you not have enough love for America and the future to want to preserve this nation as one where God is revered and morality is practiced? Has it come to pass that Ephraim is joined to his idols, and there is no chance for reform?

## THE MODERN JUGGERNAUT

In the provinces of Bengal in far-away Hindustan there is a huge temple dedicated to the god Juggernaut, called by the natives "lord of the world." The temple stands in a town which bears the name of the god, and the shrine was completed in the twelfth century at almost unbelievable expense. The idol within is a carved block of wood, with a hideous face, painted black, and a distended blood-red mouth. It is always kept elaborately clothed, its magnificent dress being of the most costly fabrics adorned with gold

and diamonds. On festival days the throne of the image is placed upon a high tower which is upon wheels. Long ropes are attached to this tower, by which the people draw it along. The entire populace, consisting of thousands of worshippers, work themselves into a frenzy, and as the huge, lumbering structure is pulled through the street, many people cast themselves underneath the huge wheels and the life is crushed from their bodies, and the blood spurts out upon the surface of the road. They go to death in the frenzied, insane, maddened devotion to this modern idol.

How strange it seems to us that men should give up all that is dear, including life itself, in their worship of a revolting image made from wood! But it has been thus through all of the years past. Ancient Israel even went to the extent that they set up just outside the city of Jerusalem the terrible god of the Ammonites, which bore the title, Moloch. This god was in the form of a huge figure with a bull's head, and the body of a man. Its arms were outstretched and the hands were cupped together. The huge and enormous body was in reality a furnace. The inside was hollow and was filled with fuel which was then kindled. By-and-by, the image became almost red hot. Then the instruments of music began to play their wild tunes to drown out the shrieking cries of the infants which were brought and placed in the heated hands of the god. Mothers and fathers prostrated themselves in the presence of the great molten image and rejoiced as they saw their children consumed and their bodies shrivel into ashes from the heat. All of this in spite of the command of God, who said, "And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Moloch, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord" (Leviticus 18:21).

The same commands against idolatry as given in the Old Testament come to us in the New. In 1 John 5:21, we have the admonition, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." In 1 Corinthians 10:14 is the command, "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." The church cannot tolerate within its fellowship those who are idolators. Let us hear the apostle, "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or a railer, or covetous, or an idolator, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one not to

eat." (1 Corinthians 5:11). Such persons cannot enter heaven. The Bible says, "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolators, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie" (Revelation 22:14, 15). An idolator cannot inherit the kingdom of God at all. I read, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10).

Again I want to remind you that one does not need to bow down to a wooden image to worship an idol. That which comes between us and the service of God is idolatry. It is possible for pleasure to become an idol. I find the apostle condemning certain ones because they "were lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:4). I hear Him say, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above. Set your affection on things above and not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1, 2). If you had rather be anywhere else on earth than the house of God when the time comes for worship, you are not yet converted wholly to God. It is possible for men to worship a shotgun, a fishing rod, or a golf club. There is nothing inherently wrong in either. But when you become such a devotee of them that you forsake the commands of God in order to follow after them, then you are guilty of idolatry. No other way can you designate it.

Now I know that you would recoil in horror at the thought of a father placing his little son in the hot arms of Moloch to destroy his physical life. But let me ask you one now. What do you think of a father who would take his little son upon the Lord's Day to some place of pleasure rather than to the house of God, and thus let him grow up and lose his eternal soul? What about that parent who never goes to church but has plenty of time to follow after the sports of this life? Isn't he endangering the welfare of those who trust him, the same as did the ancient Israelite who offered his sons to Moloch?

There is no escaping the penalty assessed by God for ignoring His will. Paul writes, "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolator, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them" (Ephesians 5:5-7).

Let no man deceive you with vain words. How often there are those who are simple enough to say, "Oh, I don't think that God expects us to go to church every Lord's Day. After all, if a person forsakes everything in this life they will just dry up and blow away. You've got to have a little pleasure and Sunday is about the only day we have, so we take it for that." The person who talks that way is a thief! Long years ago the prophet asked, "Will a man rob God?" He then answers his question, "Yea, ye have robbed Me!" When God gives us six days in which to make arrangements for our families and loved ones, and then we deliberately and maliciously appropriate the next one to our own pleasure, I again assert we are guilty of robbery! Have you stolen this day from God and given it over to idolatry?

Let no man deceive you with vain words. Have you ever heard anyone say, "We've been going to church pretty regularly lately, so we thought it would not hurt to miss one day. You only live once, you know!" Yes and you only die once also, you know. And you'll only need to go to hell once, too. Did you ever think of that? I know that you'll protest that you love God. I know that you will declare you believe in Christ. But He said, "Why call ye Me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I command you?" I'll not deny that you love God, but your actions show that you love other things more. You're trying to make God play "second-fiddle" in your life. This He will not do. If God cannot be uppermost in your mind, He will not remain there at all.

Many who do not worship the god of pleasure worship the god of wealth. It seems that their whole career is dedicated to the proposition of getting as much money as they can. They are greedy, covetous, sordid in the eagerness to accumulate all of this world's goods which they can get their fingers on. The filthy lucre

has an appeal for them that the clean gospel does not have. But again I say that those who follow after this idol will find themselves disappointed. Idolatry is deceitful.

Money always promises what it cannot give. It promises happiness, and many times brings sorrow and desolation. It promises freedom, and results in slavery. It promises smiles, and brings tear drops. Men have said that they expected to make their fortunes and then to serve God the rest of their lives. They never do. Instead, they die and are lost forever because they spend the first half of their lives trying to get money away from others and then have to spend the last half trying to keep others from getting it away from them. They never find the time necessary to serve the Lord.

The Christian life must be a pure life. The word "pure" means unmixed. The life of children of God must be unmixed with the things of the world. Many things there are which are wrong in themselves. With these we can have no agreement and no concord. Many things are not wrong within themselves, but they become wrong when we pursue them avidly to the exclusion of the commands of God. Of such things we must be careful. Let us pursue the life which God commands, without wavering and without hesitancy. Let us not turn aside either to the right hand or the left. Let us press forward, always working for the Master in the beauty of holiness. In no other way can we be saved in the last day.