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THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR TOPIC

By the Rev. Charles E. Schaeffer, D. D.

February 26th—How Much Does the World Want Christ? Acts 16:8-15; 17:32-34.

The world needs Christ very much, but does not seem to want Him very much. It never did want Him; it always rejected Him. The world had waited many centuries for Christ. He had been foretold by prophets and foreshadowed by sacrifices and ceremonies of the law, and the world was anxiously waiting for His coming, but when He actually came they would not have Him. "He came unto His own and His own received Him not." There was no place in all this wide and weary world where He could lay His head. He was rejected and despised of men. They drove Him out of His own village and He had to become a pilgrim teacher on the face of the earth. Finally they nailed Him on a cross and put Him out of the way. He seemed to be disturbing their peace and upsetting their plans. His ideals differed from those which the world had set up for itself and along the whole road of His life He was opposed and oppressed. They scarcely knew what to do with Him. Pilate asked, "What, then, shall I do with Jesus?" The multitude cried, "Away with Him!" Away with Him!" His intimate followers who hung upon His words and walked in His way for a season forsook Him and fled. He was left alone. The world did not want Him then, and although centuries have passed since that early tragedy in human history, the world has not changed so much since then. Although Jesus has been proclaimed through these centuries and the blessings of His salvation offered to all mankind, the world in general does not seem even now to desire Him very much. He can scarcely be regarded today as "the desire of all nations." The world is controlled by a different spirit, by a selfish, mercenary, frivolous spirit which is at variance with the spirit which Jesus manifested and which He desires His followers to possess.

I. Sometimes the world does not want Christ because it wants to be left undisturbed in its worldly way. Jesus is a disturber of life as well as a healer and helper. This was manifest when Jesus was here in the flesh. He disturbed people. He upset the tables of the money changers. He brought conviction of sin into the hearts of men. He was uncompromising in His standards of moral goodness. He made those Pharisees and hypocrites uncomfortable by exposing their shallowness and insincerity. So Jesus today comes as a disturbing force into life. Certain standards which the world has set for itself must be replaced. Some moral and spiritual rubbish must be removed; some surgical operations performed to cleanse society of its sin and stain. All this hurts, and naturally people must be left alone.

II. Again the world does not want Christ because many people get along confortably without Him. They think that life consists in eating and drinking, in wearing fine clothes and in running about in high-power automobiles. They are well satisfied with the comforts and conveniences of this present life. In part the Church is responsible for this state of mind on the part of many people. We have been preaching a Christianity that brings earthly comforts, luxuries and other material blessings. Many people who are clothed in purple and fine linen and fare sumptuously every day, who have nothing to do but follow a round of pleasure and a whirl of social engagements are content with that and care nothing for Christ and the Church. Christ never associated comforts and luxuries with the religion which He founded. The symbol of it was a cross, and the badge, self-denial. We make it easy for people to be Christians and hold out all sorts of tantalizing inducements, but Jesus made it a rigorous and severe experience. Because it costs so little moral effort to become a Christian many so-called Christians sit very lightly on it. They have not been refined by the fires of persecution nor have they been strengthened by the winds of opposition.

III. In what affairs of life does the world want Christ? Does the world want Christ in business? Do His standards obtain or does business want to be left alone? Does the world want Christ in politics? Are our great political issues today controlled by the mind and motive of Jesus? Does the world want Christ in its pleasures and recreation, in its social life? From all these realms where men's interests and efforts seem to center, Christ is strangely and sadly debarred. It is not true that the world stands pleading for the gospel of Christ. Sometimes we sing,

"See heathen nations bending
Before the God we love,
And thousand hearts ascending
In gratitude above."

But the heathen world as a whole is not pleading for Christ. Or we sing,

"Lo, the isles are waiting;
Stretched the hand and strained the sight."

But the heathen are not stretching out their hands nor are they spoiling their vision in looking for the bearers of the gospel of Christ. Paul saw in a vision at night a man of Macedonia calling, "Come over and help us!", but when he arrived the man of his vision could not be found.

IV. Sometimes the world does not want Christ because He is so inadequately, imperfectly and incompletely presented to the world. The world does not know Him because His followers have not manifested Him properly in word or deed. Some folks by their ungodly lives so present Christ to the world that the world does not want Him. Sometimes they so burden the message of Christ with a lot of irrelevant superstitions and false statements that the world is turned away from rather than towards Christ.

V. The world does not want Christ, but it needs Christ. The problems of the world will never be solved apart from Christ. The world is dissatisfied because it is seeking its peace and power elsewhere than in Christ. It is seeking it in education, in legislation, in diplomacy, in force, in wealth, but none of these will ever guarantee peace and satisfaction. This can be found only in Christ. Jesus alone is "manna to the hungry soul and to the weary rest."

But Christ does not thrust Himself upon the world. He stands at the door and knocks. He patiently waits, but never breaks in. He breaks out, but not in. If the world would only know what blessings Christ is waiting to bestow it would open its doors wide and would exclaim,

"O Lord, with shame and sorrow
We open now the door;
Dear Saviour, enter, enter,
And leave us nevermore."

1928 TELEPHONE ALMANAC

The 1928 telephone almanac which presents in unique form a mass of valuable information relative to the telephone and telephone development, is now being distributed to more than 1,000,000 families, according to a statement made by A. C. Allgire, manager of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Baltimore City.

This publication which is edited by the information department of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company was first distributed in 1922 when 360,000 copies were printed. Its circulation has increased rapidly until this year for the first time the number of copies printed are in excess of one million. Telephone almanacs will be distributed by the associated companies of the Bell System and already orders have been received for about 975,000 copies of the 1928 issue according to officials.

In type, style and general appearance the telephone almanac is almost an exact reproduction of the almanac made famous by "Poor Richard" and his contemporaries. Much of the atmosphere of this early publication has been preserved in the quaint illustrations which are imitation wood-cuts.

In addition to telephone data the almanac contains many references to important events in American history. This feature has given it wide use in public schools, in some of which it has been adapted as a supplement to regular text books in history.

A rather whimsical touch is "A Rebus Page for Our Young Readers" which seems to appeal to "growy-ups" as well as children. The information department of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company each year receives thousands of requests for translations of this puzzle page.

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SORDID TALE OF TROPICAL SEAS RIVALS FICTION

Swaggering Bully Charged With Tossing Shipmate to Sharks.

New York.—Frank Pollack, prize fighter, sailor, bully and accused murderer, has come home in irons from the tropical seas to answer to the charge of tossing a crippled shipmate to the sharks that he might drain a bottle alone. Patrick Hunter, maimed but nonetheless genial, went to his death off wicked Port Said, "somewhere east of Suez, where the best is like the worst." He died because he sought friendship where there was none.

The grim story of murder on the high seas, of a swaggering bully who terrorized the crew with whom he worked, defied his officers, and made life a torment for one lame seaman who, it is charged, was his victim in an uneven fight when the two were alone on the deck of their ship, was revealed by Assistant District Attorney George H. Mintzer.

Rivals Stories of Fiction.

The motor ship Tampa brought the story when she docked in Brooklyn, but Pollack arrived several days later on the steamship Canada. The crime took place on the Tampa, but Pollack was held for a while in the Azores for questioning by the American consul.

The story in its starkness and sordidness is reminiscent of the sea yarns of fiction, except that no glamour attaches to this man, who was so easily the physical superior of any of



Hunter Never Came Back.

his mates that he was absolute ruler of the forecastle, and who chose as his opponent a cripple.

But Pollack was sly. His officers, he knew, had the means of overpowering him, strong as he was. So with them he was merely surly. But from the time he signed aboard the ship the crew lived in fear. He bullied them mercilessly, but he never came to an open break with his superiors.

His fellow shipmates declare they hated him for he "soldiered"—would not do his work and was a trouble-maker. They could escape him. They were strong. But Hunter was a different proposition. The little seaman was crippled and could not resist the bully. His only hope was to seek friendship and act in the role of a toady. It didn't help, as the pugilist bullied him continually.

It was off Port Said, Egypt, that things came to a head. The two men went to the poop deck—to drink from Hunter's bottle, it was said. Hunter never came back. What happened on that lonely deck under cover of the starlit tropical night is not definitely known. Whether Pollack deliberately lured Hunter to his death, the crew of the ship do not know.

On a Hunger Strike.

Pollack says he does not know what became of Hunter. The men on the Tampa insist Hunter was thrown into the sea.

All of the circumstances of Hunter's disappearance are obscured by lack of facts, but one thing is certain and that is that Pollack swaggered back from the poop deck alone and that Patrick Hunter was never seen again. Pollack soon found himself in irons and he stayed in irons until the Tampa put in at St. Michaels, in the Azores. There Pollack was turned over to William L. Doty, American consul, and the Tampa went on to America. Pollack went on a hunger strike and Doty, fearing he might starve himself to death, had him put aboard the Canada in irons.

Man's Hand Is Nailed to Floor by Robber

Jersey City, N. J.—A robber, big and brutal, nailed John O'Donnell, a young grocery clerk, to the store floor with an ice pick when he refused to disclose the cache where $35.77 of his employer's money was hidden.

The pick was driven through the young man's right hand as he lay on the floor, arms outstretched and held down under the weight of a box of canned goods. A blow across the teeth with the butt end of the hold-up man's revolver had knocked him out, but his assailant took no chances on making a safe getaway, and so nailed him down.

Open Old Drains and Plan Some New Ones

Spring Is Time to Clean Out Ditches.

Spring rains and freshets make the farmer think of drainage, says the State College of Agriculture at Ithaca, and there is no better time to lay out tile drains and ditches than at this season of the year.

Many farmers, says the college, make it a practice in March or April every year to start out and go over their farms with a shovel over their shoulders, and a handful of sharpened small stakes. The shovel is for cleaning the outlets of the drains now installed, and the stakes are for laying out new ones.

Tile drains are an investment, and the chief returns come in saving time in getting on the land in the spring. If the outlets are stopped up, they do not take care of the excess water as they should, and their purpose is defeated. To get real returns on the investment, nothing should be allowed to keep the drains from discharging the surface and excess soil water rapidly.

And while this is being done, says the college, there is no better time than early spring to locate the wet spots in the fields and see where they should naturally drain. Watching where the surface water goes will generally give an idea as to the best natural outlet, and stakes should be set for future reference when the ditches can be dug.

One little wet spot may spoil the appearance and usefulness of a whole field, making it necessary to turn around in the middle of the lot, or to altogether forego the planting of certain crops. Drain the wet spots, says the college, and put the whole field on the same basis.

Mixture of Cooked Beans and Corn for Pig Feed

In an experiment carried on at the Michigan experiment station cull table beans were fed in a mixture of cooked beans and corn for pigs, and the results showed that they had a high food value for swine when fed in connection with some high carbohydrate feed. It seems that they could be fed with success to cows and poultry, but it would not be advisable to limit the amount of corn as beans are high in protein. Cull beanmeal carries approximately 20 per cent of protein, 42 per cent of carbohydrates and 1.3 per cent of fat. Corn is not a protein feed, but is, however, an important grain in a ration. The use of corn is for energy and fat for an animal rather than for the production of milk and eggs. It would seem that where cooked cull beans are fed to cows at the rate of 5 pounds a day, an 18 per cent protein ration in addition, fed at the rate of 1 pound of grain to each 3½ pounds of milk, might make a good milk-producing feed. It is suggested that a grain ration feed be: 1 part corn meal, 2 parts bran, 2 parts ground oats, 2 parts gluten feed, 2 parts cottonseed meal and 1 part of oilmeal.

For poultry the beans should replace wheat in the scratch feed, and could take the place of middlings in a mash. It is safe to say that beans, like any other feed, in a ration for an animal should not make up over 25 per cent of the ration.

Jack Rabbits Kill Many Trees in Shelter Belt

Jack rabbits cause considerable injury to forest trees in many localities. In winter the succulent branches of the smaller trees are often girdled, causing stunted growth and sometimes killing the trees, writes C. A. Gillett, in the Dakota Farmer.

Probably the best method of protecting young shelter-belt trees from the rodents is fencing the shelter-belt area with a suitable fence that will prevent the rabbits from jumping over or getting through the mesh.

Operations for the control of jack rabbits are being directed by the United States Department of Agriculture biological survey. In South Dakota the work is to be aided by the establishment of a number of commercial stations for buying jack rabbits' skins in the western half of the state by agreements during the coming winter with produce companies in the East. The jack rabbit skins are to be used mostly in the manufacture of felt hats. The rise in the price of raw materials for felt-hat making has made it possible to utilize great numbers of rabbit skins that were formerly wasted.

Hens Like to Peck at Commercial Wall Board

When commercial wall board is used to line the inside of poultry houses the hens have a tendency to peck at the boards and tear off and eat part of the material. This can be prevented by covering the wall board with a paint composed of three parts cement and one part fine sand mixed to a plastic state with skim milk. This paint gives the surface a hard stone-like finish which is not easily broken by the pecking of the hens.

Two coats of the light-gray cement paint are necessary. It can be applied with a whitewash brush. The second coat can be applied about three hours after the first coat. If the poultryman does not wish to have the house too dark, the gray cement paint can be used to a point as high as the hens can reach from the floor or the dropping boards.

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