Failing of Youth Is Inability to Discover Real Meaning to Life

By REV. DR. ROBERT R. WICKS, Holyoke, Mass.

Are we becoming an overindulged generation? This question touches the most persistent and insidious problem of our American life. Its root lies in the failure of Americans generally and of our youth in particular to discover any real meaning to life. We drift toward secularism and materialism as a solution to our dilemma, and it is not amazing that we only succeed in becoming more perplexed and fed up.

Compare these two statements of life's meaning, one from a college senior and the other from the founder of the college at which the young man is a student. "The only meaning of life," says the student, "is to get all the fun you can out of it and don't do anything you can't get by with, because that's what everybody does anyway." The founder of the college says, on the other hand: "I received during my years of university training one thing that I have never had to change. That was a sense of what was worth while in life." In a comparison of these two statements we find a key to the present unrest.

In an age when everything is done for us and everything is easy of attainment, we lose the opportunity for the strenuous endeavor that characterized our predecessors, the pioneers.

Pastor, to Be Influential, Must Be Honest in His Pulpit Utterances

By REV. DR. ALBERT EDWARD DAY, Pittsburgh.

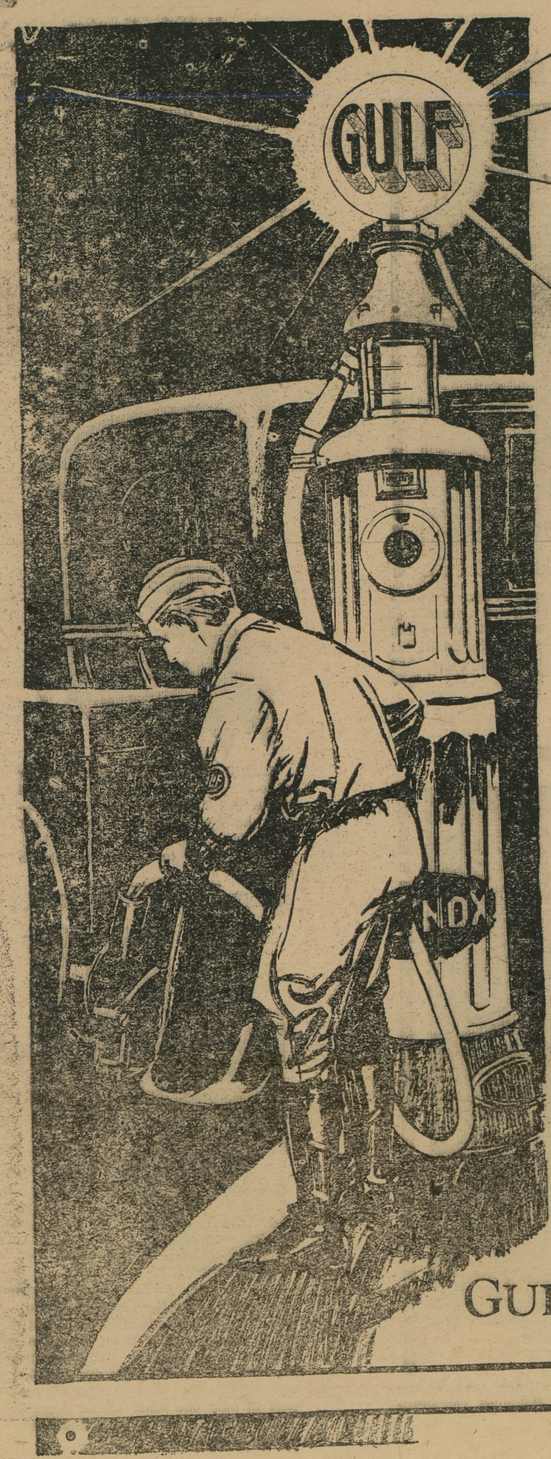
How can a congregation trust its minister as a spiritual adviser if it suspects that he is saying what he does not believe, or is not saying what he does believe? Only a few weeks ago I sat in a company of the most intellectual men of the day. One of them, an educator of national reputation, told of having gone to a prominent church, and, as he listened to the preacher, having jotted down on paper some things which the preacher uttered.

A few days later this educator confronted that preacher with his pulpit declamations and asked: "Do you believe these things?"

The preacher hastened to avow that he did not; that he only said such things to please his pew holders, who would be shocked by a revelation of his real state of mind.

How can a minister stand in the pulpit and utter insincere words and expect to retain either the blessings of God, or the confidence of men?

It costs something to be honest, but as long as a preacher stands in any pulpit his congregation should be sure that he is dealing honestly, and that what he says in the pulpit represents a conviction and not a bid for salary.



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