



## **FROM THE RIDICULOUS TO THE PREPOSTEROUS!**

**January - February, 2001**

Should Christians use military metaphors when they evangelize? This is of such a vital interest that recently, representatives from thirty-one (New) Evangelical mission groups met at Fuller Seminary (ultra-new evangelical) to consider the issue. They put forth a statement urging Christians not to use such terms as “crusade” (as in Evangelistic Crusade) because it may stir centuries-old bitterness in Muslim nations since it could be equated with the “Holy Wars” of the 11th and 12th centuries. They said that such terms may offend non-Christians and even endanger Christian workers. Other such words as “advance” or “beachhead” are also out (I suppose “retreat” is O.K.). The two major evangelical missions groups, the Evangelical Fellowship of Mission Agencies and the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association, each of which represents many individual mission societies, signed the statement. The World Evangelical Fellowship, the Southern Baptist Convention and the Association of Vineyard Churches also endorsed the policy. Apparently, one of the first institutions to put the plan into action (if “action” isn’t too forceful) was Wheaton College (also ultra-new evangelical). Their sports teams were called the “Crusaders” for fifty years or more. However, many student petitions (as usual the students run the school as children run the home these days) forced a change. Since the school leadership takes this sort of stuff seriously, they have already dropped that title for one selected from over 500 entries - Thunder. There is no mention of lightning as that would no doubt be offensive to some people who could think you were calling down fire from Heaven upon them. Was Elijah wrong? One of the students was asked concerning a new logo. He said it hadn’t been settled on yet since no one knows how to draw Thunder. Are these people serious?

Well, I got to thinking about this. It seems to me they will have to change their bibles (no real problem because they already use “changed” modern versions). For example, the Bible (the one I have) *commands* the Christian to be a “good soldier of Jesus Christ.” That certainly is militant! Then, we are commissioned to “Fight the good fight of faith.” I suppose some Muslim or other religious person might take that as an act of hostility. These “do-gooders” might just have to face the possibility that the Bible Itself may eventually have to be done away with for it speaks of itself as the “Sword of the Spirit.” Hey, who knows but that somebody might think you want to do him in or cut off his head. We all love the Psalms, but there are more than a few problems here. What about David saying, “...God is angry with the wicked every day. If he turn not, He will whet His sword; He hath bent His bow, and made it ready. He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death, He ordained His arrows against the persecutors.” ~Psalm 7:11-13. Wow! There are many similar places and more than once David asks God to break the teeth of his enemies. That is not very nice! I am not sure what to do about all these things, but I am not going to get upset over it since it is not my problem. Well, I don't have room for any more of this serious stuff. I just thought I'd let you in on what's going on and what is relative in the Evangelical world.

# YOUTH CORNER

## WASHINGTON'S PRAYER FOR AMERICA.

Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally, that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SEVEN RULES FOR FRUITFUL DAILY LIVING:

1. Seek to give much, expecting nothing in return.
2. Always put the very best construction on the words and actions of others.
3. Never let a day go by without a significant amount of time (at least 30 min.) in prayer and Bible reading.
4. Start every day with prayer and Bible study. The day will go better if you begin with God.
5. Seek to live up to all the truth God has showed you. You can't be blessed of God if you are disobedient.
6. Do your best to cultivate a "meek and quiet spirit." It seems most everyone is rude and self centered.
7. Do your best to speak to someone every day about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Young people, a useful, happy life is no accident. It must be worked at every day. It's easy to wreck your life! God says, "**Remember...thy Creator in the days of thy youth...**" Begin now, tomorrow may be too late!

**BRAINWASHED AT FIVE!** Recently, the parent of a public school kindergarten student observed an assignment on the wall of his child's classroom. Each student was to answer the following question: "What would I do if I were President?" He jotted down the answers and sent them to me. Mind you, these are five-year-olds. It is more than coincidental that the vast majority of responses display an already entrenched socialist perspective. At five years of age, these future leaders have already been brainwashed into a socialist mindset. Notice the answers:

"I'd make sure everyone has enough money to buy stuff."

"I would make sure everyone is safe."

"I would let everyone eat pizza and have a party."

"I would keep animals safe."

"I would make sure everyone was equal."

"I would take everyone on vacation."

There were a few answers that showed any hope. Two of the children said they would make sure all babies were safe; another said he would make sure everyone was free. No doubt by the time they reach the end of elementary school they will be convinced to give up this politically incorrect concept. -Copied.

Remember now thy Creator in the  
days of thy youth, while the evil  
days come not, nor the years  
draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I  
have no pleasure in them;  
Ecclesiastes 12:1

## COULD I BE CALLED A CHRISTIAN?

Could I be called a Christian if everybody knew  
My secret faults, thoughts and failings and everything I do?  
Oh, could they see the likeness of Christ in me each day,  
Could they hear Him speaking in every word I say?

Could I be called a Christian if other folk could know  
That I am found in places where Jesus would not go?  
Oh, could they hear His echo in every song I sing?  
In eating, drinking, dressing - is Christ everything?

Could I be called a Christian if judged by what I read,  
By all my recreations and every thought and deed?  
Could I be counted Christlike as I now work and play-  
Unselfish, kind, forgiving to others everyday.

## ONE THING WE NEED!

We often hear and read of the need for revival. We need it, but I am afraid that not many of God's children really want it. *You will never have revival unless you want it!* God's Word says, **"If my people, which are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land."** Notice, we are to take the initiative! You must humble yourself, you must pray (few are serious about prayer), you must turn from your sin (we think we are OK). We are more like those at Laodicea: **"Rich...in need of nothing."** We will not acknowledge our sin and lack of power. You will never have revival without the filling of the Holy Spirit. What is revival but death to self and the filling of the Spirit. God commands: **"Be ye filled with the Spirit."** Someone said if the Holy Spirit was secretly taken from the Church, very few people would know the difference. I believe that is true. You can't be filled with the Spirit and be filled with yourself and your own ways. Tozer said, *"We would like to be filled with the Spirit and yet go on doing as we please."* Now, people don't get filled with the Holy Spirit as a group. It is each one for himself. If the Church is to be revived, Spirit-filled, it will be one at a time. What about you? Do you want revival? Will you pay the price? Moody said when he was in California he saw two fields, one full of vegetation and the other all dried up. His guide said the difference is one is irrigated and one is not. Moody said the problem with many Christians is they are all dried up. The water of the Spirit is missing.

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## IS THIS YOU?

This true story no doubt fits a good many people, in all probability, some who are reading these lines. A Pastor gave his testimony of being on the battleship West Virginia the day of the infamous Pearl Harbor attack, Dec. 7, 1941. Along with about fifteen other sailors, he went to Bible study on Dec. 6th. He had been brought up in a Christian home but did not take it seriously. The leader of the study asked each one to give a different verse of Scripture. Though he'd gone to Church three times a week all of his life, the only verse he could think of was John 3:16. But before it was his turn, someone used that and he could not remember another. He sat there in great humiliation. When the study was dismissed, he went home saying to himself over and over again, *"Robertson, you are a fake!"* At 7:55 the next morning there was a call to battle stations; the Japanese were attacking Pearl Harbor. He went to his gun placement, and along with others, began firing blanks since that was all they had on deck. The live ammunition was stored below. He said, *"As I fired that machine gun, all I could think of was, 'Roberston, you're a fake - your whole life has been just firing blanks!'"* He said, "I made up my mind if I escaped with my life, I would be serious about salvation and following Jesus." He was true to that commitment! Many are just like him in our Fundamental churches. Maybe you are one of them. The truth is you have made a profession of salvation, but you are not "born again" and you have been just firing blanks. What a way to face God! Wake up! Repent! Trust Christ and commit your life to Him!