

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

A STRANGE SUMMONS

Text: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." I John 3:2.

Will you imagine with me a self-conscious acorn? This acorn can feel within itself the urge to become a mighty oak. It can see vaguely but really the oak that it will become. It feels an imperative, a must, to become that oak. To deny the inner urge, the outward vision, the pressure of the must is to deny its very self, and also to deny something beyond itself which gave it the urge, the vision, and the imperative.



Rev. D.M. Clark

I have not given you something which is beyond your imaginative power. Is it not true that this imagined experience of the acorn is the normal experience of a human being? A human being feels an inner urge to become more than he is at the moment. He sees with an inner eye vaguely but really the being that lives in the future. The human being experiences a must which to deny is to deny himself and Another. As men we might prefer to be children of circumstance and chance, but we are not that. We are something more. We may be very baffling to ourselves. There is a strange summons beyond us. There is a strange summons above us.

There is a strange summons in us. "Beloved, now are we children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be." We are children, not yet grown into maturity. A child must grow.

When I was a child I had strange pains in my limbs, which, when mentioned to my father, he dismissed, perhaps unwisely as "growing pains." My child's mind then imagined my bones and tissues stretching themselves to increase my size and stature. These were not growing pains but I was having growing pains of another kind. As surely as the inner oak bursts the outer shell of the acorn, so an inner maturity was pressing upon the child.

It is indeed strange that even as "the oak in some baffling way is the acorn, yet the acorn is not the oak;" the man is the child, yet the child is not the man. The child is not the man. The child feels a strange summons. So within us there is a summons to be greater than we are.

When the summons is rightly interpreted we discover it to be a moral thing. It is an urge to rightness, not wrongness. When morally grasped, it becomes compulsive, a must. The oak within the acorn says to the acorn, "You must become an oak." The man within the child says, "You must become a man." There is a deep urge, an inner summons of the whole man, body, soul, spirit, mind, heart, strength, toward the greater man, toward self-realization, toward that which appears in Christ Jesus.

A man is unlike an acorn in that he is not a child of circumstance. He has freedom amid circumstances. He is a being of spiritual self-direction. Whether he grows into what he shall be depends upon his own cooperation with the inner urge of his soul. A man may choose beneath the level of his proper manhood. He may choose not to heed the inner summons. By this, guilt and personal disorders are often registered.

There is a strange summons outside us. The text says, "It doth not yet appear what we shall be." The text is correct. It deals with an ultimate and eternal idea of what a child of God shall become.

In vague outline, however, does it not appear what we shall be? There is an outer summons of the soul of man. For example, is it not true that you feel the imperative expressed by the words, "You must become a loving man?" Is that must not registered by the great commandments? Can we not see what the imperative in-

GO to the CHURCH of YOUR CHOICE



AT OUR CHURCHES

DEADline for church news and photographs is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Mr. Clark's home, 1676 N. 'E' St., telephone 642-1560.

BAPTIST

GRACE EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. C.L. Alexander, 384-7413
815 Bartlett, Vegas Hts.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632
400 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

The Bethel Baptist Church Senior Choir will present its annual musical on Sunday, Aug. 9, at 3 p.m., under the direction of Clarence MacLemore. Mrs. Sadie Orange is in charge of arrangements and may be reached at 642-0838.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. M. Carroll
712 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas

A community youth musical will be conducted at the Calvary Baptist Church on Sunday night, Aug. 2.

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Simmons, 382-2748
311 Madison Ave., Las Vegas

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. V. C. L. Coleman, 384-3131
1209 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

The Second Baptist Church Usher Board observed its 22nd anniversary last week. Baptism and communion will be conducted during evening worship on Sunday, Aug. 2.

EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. B. Carr, 382-5682
1113 N. "H" St., Las Vegas

NEW JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. F. N. Addison
"D" & Jefferson Sts., Las Vegas

GREATER FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. P. S. Walker, 384-1248
Balzar St., Vegas Hts.

volves, if only vaguely?

There is an idea of Christ's character ever pressing upon the soul of a child of God. It is the summons of an ideal. With freedom of self-direction we can choose not to heed this strange summons which comes from outside. By such choice we deny our greater manhood. By disobedience to the outer summons, remorse and guilt will come. One cannot deny his greater selfhood without experiencing disorder of personality.

There is a strange summons above us. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called sons of God."

By what strangeness is it that the acorn must become an oak? It seems that the acorn has a Summoner.

Is there a Summoner concerned about us, making it possible for us to become sons of God, calling us to that destiny, and thereby manifesting his love for us?

The inner summons is of God. The outer summons is of God. The outer summons and the inner summons are the same unto becoming children of God, growing unto Christlikeness. This is God's will and purpose. This is the summons above us.

What shall I do about this? I shall make total commitment of myself to God. God is utterly loving, utterly wise, utterly merciful. God has formed us for himself. I shall answer his summons. "It doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

Dedicate New Church

Dedication of the newly completed Pleasant Grove Baptist Church will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 4. Dr. V. C. L. Coleman will deliver the dedicatory sermon. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the ceremonies.

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Kemp, 642-5708
1189 Hassell St., Vegas Hts.

PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. C. Kline, 382-7263
101 N. "A" St., Las Vegas

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. J. Thompson, 642-4001
1305 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

ST. PETER BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Leo A. Johnson, 642-2559
"C" and Washington, Las Vegas

CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

UPPER ROOM C. of G. in C.
Bishop C. C. Cox, 385-1541
1117 N. "F" St., Las Vegas

Bishop C.A. James of Los Angeles, National Chorus Director of the Churches of God in Christ, is conducting an old time revival.

POWERHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Supt. J. W. Logan, 382-6187
1216 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

MOST HIGH C. of G. in C.
Eld. J. Washington, 642-5675
Henderson

PROGRESSIVE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Jos. Prudhomme, 642-5556
1155 Lawry Ave., Vegas Hts.

LIGHTHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Willie Rawls, 384-5539
E. Sahara Ave., Fourmyle

PRAYER HOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. W. M. Shaw, 382-1743
Blankenship St., Vegas Hts.

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Tuesday 8 pm - - - - - Bible Band
Wednesday 8 pm - - - - - *Young People
Friday 8 pm - - - - - Consecration
Sunday 10 am - - - - - Sunday School
Sunday 12 m - - - - - Morning Service
Sunday 6:30 pm - - - - - YPW
Sunday 8 pm - - - - - Evening Worship
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*Progressive - - - - - Inspirational

METHODIST

ZION METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. M. D. Bennett, 382-9900
911 N. "G" St., Las Vegas

Daily Vacation Bible School will be held July 27-31. Registration fee is 25 cents and refreshments will be provided at 15 cents per day. All children in the community are invited.

CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Msgr. W. J. Devlin, 382-9953
"H" & Morgan Sts., Las Vegas

Sunday Mass--11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Week Day Mass--7:30 p.m. each evening
Confession--Saturday 4 and 7:30 p.m.
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WORLD FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Lily Grey
429 Van Buren St., Las Vegas