

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

WHY BOTHER ABOUT GOD?

Text: But It Is Good for Me to Draw Near to God: I Have Put My Trust in the Lord God That I May Declare All Thy Works. Psalms 73:28.

Why bother about God? Nobody has ever seen Him. No two people ever agree about what He is like. And so many lives in which God apparently has played a large part have been narrow, restricted, cramped; at least to the outsider. They have been filled with a gnawing sense of guilt and deprived of all real pleasure in the satisfaction of life's most basic desires. God has "caused" so many heartbreaks in so many lives, and so many battles have been fought in His name, why not leave Him alone? It is all so vague and so much in the realm of mystery, why bother about it? Why get involved in something so fantastically remote and yet, at the same time, so often disturbing?



REV. D. M. CLARK

There are so many other things that we can work on here and now in which we can see the results of what we do. Why bother about God, especially since we are getting along so well? We are happy, we have a wonderful home life, we have plenty to eat and a nice place to live, and wonderful schools. Why take on something that would raise so many questions, impose so many additional obligations, create so many unpleasant things to do? Why take on that extra burden?

There are many sincere human beings who are in this quandary.

Without God there is no one to needle you from above, there is no one to nag you from on high; to make you feel that you should have done something that you didn't do, or to make you feel like a worm because you did do something that you shouldn't have done.

The assumption behind this whole point of view is that the only things that you bother about in life are the things that make life possible, or pleasant. As a matter of fact, when you stop to think about it, the things that people have bothered most about are the things that are neither necessary nor pleasant.

The thing that makes a man a man is his desire to bother about things that are of no earthly benefit to him whatsoever.

If you have decided--I don't say that you have, but you may have--if you have decided to bother only about the things that make life possible and pleasant, to do only the things that give you immediate pleasure and physical satisfaction, you need to be "shook up" before you get settled in a rut that can be deeper than any open grave. For when a man is willing to settle for a life that requires little more than an animal existence, you can be sure that he is on his way to becoming little more than an animal himself.

We have been asking this question--why bother about God?--as though it were phrased--why should a PERSON bother about God? Perhaps we should put it this way: Why do people bother about God? There are at least two reasons.

The first is that they must. There is something in everyone that needs God, craves God. Many people don't know it.

What I think, and I may be wrong, is that we desire God a great deal more than we realize, but we express that desire in different words. You ask yourself, what is life with all its contradictions and its confusion, what is it all about, what does it all mean? When you long for meaning in your life, you are longing for what people have called God. You say to yourself in a moment of despair, when it seems as though you aren't accomplishing much of anything: What am I here for? What purpose is there in my life? Actually, your inner self is longing for the eternal God, for, whatever else God means, He means Purpose.



Church Directory

DEADLINE for church news and photos is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Clark's home, 1676 North 'E' St., phone 642-1560. All items submitted must be accompanied by the sender's name, address and (if available) phone number.

BAPTIST

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632
C & Washington Sts., Las Vegas

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

NEW MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. B. Carr, 382-5682
505 1/2 Jackson St., Las Vegas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is another reason why people bother about God. There are many things beyond their understanding that they can ill afford to ignore, and they sense that God is involved. We all know something about the law of gravity, although few of us, I suppose, truly understand it. We use it to explain certain earthly phenomena, but more important, we know that if we step off the roof of a building, we are in for a nasty fall.

You can't get away from it. In the long run, this God whom we sometimes feel we don't need and don't have to bother about is always right there in front of our eyes.

There is just one final word for the Christian, and I assume that most of us are trying to be Christians. The Christian bothers about God for the simple reason that God bothers about him. As I was thinking about the question of why we should bother about God; I thought to myself, the question we should be asking ourselves is: Why in the world does God bother about us? Stupid, unappreciative creatures that we often are, why does He keep bothering about us? And He does! He shares His life with us, He gives us a portion of His own divine freedom to be ourselves and live our own lives; to make our own decisions, and even defy Him if we

CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

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

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

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

MOST HIGH C. of G. in C.
Eld. J. Washington 642-5675
2029 Travis St., Las Vegas

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

CARVER PARK C. of G. in C.
Eld. C. Parson 642-3967
Carver Park Adm. Bldg., Henderson

ST. PAUL C. of G. in C.
Eld. Coruth Hall, 649-1523
301 N. D St., Las Vegas

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Bible Band: Tuesday, 8 pm
Young People: Wednesday, 8 pm
Consecration: Friday, 8 pm
Sunday School: Sunday, 9:45 am
Morning Service: Sunday, 12 noon
YPWW: Sunday, 6:30 pm

CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Msgr. William J. Devlin, 382-9953
704 W. McWilliams Ave., Las Vegas

Sunday Masses: 11 am and 5 pm
Weekday Masses: 7:30 am; Saturday, 9 am
Holyday Masses: 9:30 am and 7:30 pm
Confessions: Saturday, 4-4:30 and 7:30-8 pm
Adult Classes: Monday and Friday, 7:30 pm
Child Classes: Monday, 4-5 pm; Saturday, 9-10:30 am
Rosary: Daily, 7:30 pm except Sundays

METHODIST

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

PENTECOSTAL

CHURCH of the LORD JESUS
Eld. Hosea Coleman, 642-8741
1260 Bartlett St., Vegas Heights

wish. He shares His divine creative instinct with us and gives us a portion of His power to make things that contribute to our comfort. He shares His mind with us through the minds of prophets and poets whom He has illuminated and inspired. And at one particular point in the history of the race, He shared His love with us, came among us to live our life, accepting the limitations that we have to face every day to show us what life can be like when it is lived under and with Him.

If someone bothers that much about you, to help you with your problems and relieve you of your sense of guilt, and bring you back into the family when you are lost; if somebody bothers that much about you, it is a little difficult not to bother about Him. We love God because God first loved us. We bother about God because God bothers so much about us.