

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

BUILDING ON SAND

Text: "A Foolish Man. . . Built His House Upon the Sand." (Matthew 7:24)

THE SEARCH for peace and security has not been confined to any one age or nation. Men have felt--and always will feel--the need for inner stability. They have tried innumerable methods in an attempt to achieve their goal--for the most part in vain.

It is true, however, that there never was an age when inner peace and security were more needed than they are today. There was a time when individuals and nations lived more or less to themselves, when their problems were more localized. That day, of course, has gone forever. Today, things that happen across the world have an immediate impact upon us. Time was when a civil war in Southeast Asia would have meant little to the average American. Today it could mean a struggle for our very existence.



REV. D. M. CLARK

Today, still weary and exhausted from the effects of two generations of wars, we struggle to our feet like a punch-drunk fighter in the last round of a fight and from the depths of our hearts cry, "How long, O Lord, how long?"

No wonder, then, that we ask ourselves, "Can we know peace, and happiness, and security in this turbulent, uncertain world in which we find ourselves?" The answer, praise God, is "Yes!" During the next four weeks we shall attempt to find the answers to that question in more detail; but, first, let us examine some of the attempts which man has made, and is still making, to find peace on earth.

1. THE STOIC: The ancient Greeks sought the answer in Stoicism--"What will be, will be. Therefore, put up with it!" At least one modern psychiatrist has made a similar suggestion: "Cultivate stoical attitudes to meet the hard knocks of life." This attitude demands that we force love and pity from our hearts, we cannot afford to be sorry for others; for what happens to them must be endured by them just as what happens to us must be endured by us. Emotion plays no part in the life of the stoic. Therefore stoicism creates merely a hard outward shell, but does not prevent dissatisfaction and turbulence within.

2. BUDDHISM: Buddha said that existence and suffering are inseparable. The only way in which one could eliminate suffering was to cease to exist! And the only way to cease to exist was to cease to ACT; the only way to get out of action was to eliminate desire, the root of action. Thus, root out all desire--even the desire to live--and you will know peace. Today, we would call this escapism, but it actually offers no way of escape, for desire is inherent in the human heart, and the desire to live is the strongest of all human desires.

3. MOHAMMEDANISM: Islam has its counterpart in our so-called Christian nation. Everything that happens is the will of God--therefore submit to it! Kismet. "It is fate." But the true Christian knows that everything that happens is NOT the will of God. It is not God's will that we should sin; it is not the will of God that a wife and children should starve because the father spends the family income at a tavern. The threat of Communism is not the will of God. In war, we discover that the men who become fatalists, who say, "I'll get mine only when a shell comes over with my name written on it," are those who die first because of their recklessness. Not necessarily reckless courage--just stupid, unavailing carelessness.

4. COMMUNISM: Theoretically, the Communist answer to the search for security lies in the theory that if one contributes to society according to one's ability, society in turn will guarantee that your needs will be supplied. (It



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goes without saying that actually the Communist state does not practice this principle). The existence of God is denied; to believe in God is escapism. And while Communism has millions of fanatical followers, it is literally true that no Communist, from the rulers in the Kremlin down to the lowliest peasant, feels secure.

5. THE PLEASURE PRINCIPLE: This school of thought believes that man should eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow he dies. The pursuit of pleasure is the constant spare-time occupation of adherents of this school. But they forget that peace and happiness are not to be obtained by pursuit. As Dr. E. Stanley Jones has said, "The most unhappy people are the people who are seeking most ardently their own happiness. The happiest folks are those who are too busy thinking of others to worry about their own problems."

6. PSYCHOANALYSIS: We have no quarrel with the Christian psychoanalyst; but the psychiatrist who attempts to solve the problems of others by delving into their inner selves, and leaves Christ out of the picture, is building on quicksand. During World War II an army chaplain was approached by a young Methodist boy who had been raised in a devout Christian home.

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(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

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PENTECOSTAL

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Eld. Hosea Coleman, 642-8741
1260 Bartlett St., Vegas Heights

Returned from overseas with a severe case of "combat fatigue," he had been sent to the post psychiatrist who asked him: "Have you ever been drunk?" "No." "Have you ever been intimate with a woman?" "No." "Well, that's your trouble--get rid of your inhibitions by going to town, getting drunk and finding a woman!" The theory that self-knowledge is self-healing is a myth. Psychoanalysis can pick a person to pieces, but it cannot put the pieces together again if Christ is left out of the picture.

7. REGIMENTED SECURITY: Again, we have no quarrel with government social security. But peace, happiness, security of mind, cannot be found in FINANCIAL security. You cannot guarantee peace of mind by deducting a certain percentage from a man's wages. Social security (See PULPIT, page 11)