

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

START WITH YOURSELF

Text: "Behold, I Have Set Before You an Open Door." (Revelations 3:8)

THIS IS A DAY OF CLOSED DOORS. A great deal of the frustration that is characteristic of our modern life is caused by the closed doors which we are always facing. We want peace and security, but the door seems to be closed in our faces. We want to know, to experience certainty about the things that really matter, but the door of certainty seems to be closed before us. An iron curtain shuts out our happiness.

Last week we discussed some of the methods which man has tried--in vain--to attain peace, certainty, security and happiness. None of these things are obtained by any magic formula. Yet all of these things are attainable, if we really want them and will try the right method.



REV. D. M. CLARK

"Behold, I have set before you an open door," wrote the Apostle to the church at Philadelphia, speaking as the mouth-piece of God. God has set before us an open door. There is no latch on it; it is not locked; it is not even closed. It is an open door, a door wide ajar. All we have to do is take the one step across the threshold! But God will not carry us, or push us, or drag us over that threshold. We must take the initial steps ourselves. What are these steps?

1. WE MUST CLEAN HOUSE! If Christ is to enter our hearts, every room must be clean. No rubbish must be stored away in closets or attic; no dust must be swept under the carpet. And the key to every room in the house must be surrendered to Him. He will be Lord OF all, or He will not be Lord AT all!

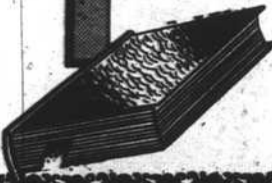
A good many years ago, when the now prosperous city of Huddersfield, England, was just a village, a rich man by the name of Lord Halifax saw that the time would come when Huddersfield would be a thriving industrial city. He therefore proceeded to buy up all the land he could. Finally, he owned all of Huddersfield with the exception of a little plot of land on which was a cottage owned by an old, retired Quaker and his wife. The Quaker would not sell. When Lord Halifax saw that he would have to take personal action, he drove to the cottage, strode up to the door, and rapped with his cane. When the Quaker came to the door, he said, "I am Lord Halifax. You probably know why I am here?" "Yes," said the Quaker, "you want to buy this land, but it is not for sale--at any price." "Look here," said Lord Halifax, "will you sell if I cover every inch of your land with golden sovereigns?" "No," said the Quaker, "not even if you set them on edge!" As Lord Halifax strode angrily away, the Quaker called after him, "Remember, Lord Halifax, Huddersfield belongs to both you AND to me!"

There is no taunt which Satan likes to use more than to be able to say to God: "Remember, this man belongs to you AND to me!" But God replies, "Not so, for I will be Lord OF ALL, or I will not be Lord AT ALL." So, every department of your life must be fully surrendered to Him if you would know peace and security.

2. WE MUST HAVE FAITH IN GOD. The depositor who loses faith in a bank will likely withdraw his deposit, put his money in a tin can and bury it! When he receives a check on that bank, he will be nappy until he has cashed it to see if it is good. The word of God is filled with promises, promises that are truly precious; more so than all the money in all the banks in the world. But those promises are of little worth to us unless we have faith in the one who makes them. Let us get this through our heads once and for all--God means what He says, and He is abundantly able to fulfill every promise He makes. He is good for every check he writes! How often, though, He must look into our hearts



GO to the CHURCH of YOUR CHOICE



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

and say, "Wherefore dost thou doubt, O ye of little faith?"

3. WE MUST MAKE HIS WILL OUR WILL. Utter surrender to the will of God is an essential step across the threshold that leads to security and peace. Despite our limited, human understanding, we think that we know what is best for us. We determine on a path that we think will lead to happiness and we are surprised when there is nothing but discontent at the end of the path. In fact, we act like children! If your child wants to play with a razor blade, you take it away from him. At the moment, he believes he will not be happy until he plays with it. You know better. Life is full of dangerous desires. Because we are free-will agents, God will not insist on taking away these desires, nor will he thwart our insistent PURSUIT of things which we think will make us happy. But that is not the way to happiness! It is the road to disillusion and despair.

Archbishop Temple has told of a mischievous boy who got into a department store window and changed all the price tags around so that the high priced things were priced low, while the low-priced articles bore high price tags. And that is the way so many of us do! We need

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

a new evaluation of the things that are TEMPORAL and the things that are ETERNAL. We need to surrender utterly to the will of God. How may we ascertain His will? We have three guides: The Bible, Communion through prayer, and His definite guidance through conscience.

When in doubt, listen for and heed that voice from within--His voice.

It is not the will of God that we should make mistakes; but we shall make plenty of them. It is not His will that we should be sick, know sorrow and suffering, but we shall have plenty of sickness and suffering and sorrow. And when we make mistakes, when we are sick or in sorrow, He will show us how to profit by our mistakes and afflictions.

Much of our uncertainty and unhappiness come from worrying about things that never (See PULPIT, page 11)