

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

ANCHORS OF THE SOUL

Text: "Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern and wished for the day." Acts 27:29.

HERE IS A question that is worth asking. Have you and I any anchors on board the ship? And are they strong enough for the day of storm? Are they fit for the strain of life and death, and joy and terror, and everything that may happen on life's seas?

"They cast four anchors out." Let us give the four anchors their names. And let us pray the good God that they may be part of the equipment of us all.

THERE IS ONLY one other place in Scripture when the word "anchor" occurs. "We have fled for refuge", declares the writer to the Hebrews, "to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul sure and steadfast." There is is then; Anchor number one--Hope.



REV. D. M. CLARK

Is that part of your ship's equipment? As long as a man has hope in his heart, life cannot destroy him. It may hurt him, but it will not break him. As long as hope holds out, he will weather the roughest storm. It is when hope goes; it is when things are going wrong, and the heart grows heavy as lead, and buoyancy gives way to cynicism, and life looks futile and contemptible; it is then the ship goes under. Our anchor--Hope.

"THEY CAST four anchors out, and wished for the day."

Hope is one; But one is not adequate for safety. We must find another. I want to bring before you now one of the best and most blessed of all the anchors of the soul, especially in the stormy seas of youth. It's name is Duty.

Thank God for duty--that mighty anchor. Thank God for the providence which decreed that only in the sweat of his brow should man eat bread. Thank God for the tasks that give you something better to do than brooding and introspection. Thank God for the sheer hard toil that keeps the seven devils from getting into the swept and garnished house. Thank God for the things that must be done, even though the heavens should crash and fall. Thank God for duty! It will hold the ship until the daybreak and the shadows flee away.

OUR NEXT anchor is Prayer. God help the ship that leaves the harbor without that anchor on board! But so many of them do. And so many who once possessed it have long since cast it away.

It is extraordinary that there are people today genuinely trying to be Christians, and yet never praying from one week's end to another. How can the spiritual life be vital under such conditions?

"They cast four anchors out." One more we need to know its name. It is the greatest of them all. It is the Cross of Christ.

I wonder if there is any anchor in this world like love. When the storms are on the deep, is there any safety like the power of a great affection?

And when the cross of God's uttermost on Calvary has got its grip upon a man; when he has felt the strength of the love that will not let him go; what an anchor of the soul is there, stronger than the waves of life, and mightier than the whirlwind of death!



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CHURCH DINNER AND PROGRAM SCHEDULED

(HEAR YE THE VOICE OF JESUS)

I must work the work of Him that sent me, while it is day: The night cometh, when no man can work.

Evangelist Lola Harris invites the public to help her build the district work of The Christ Holy Sanctified Church of America, Inc., by attending the varied program which will be held at the Church, 316 W. Madison Ave., Las Vegas, Saturday, January 14.

Home-cooked dinners will be available for delivery from 11 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. from the parsonage in the rear of the Church, and dinner will be served in the parsonage from 6 to 7:15 p.m.

Services, which will begin in the Church at 7:30 p.m., will offer the diversified talents of the Milten Ett Singers, Sister Joe Ann Sykes, Sister J. M. Haynes, Daughter Lennet, and others. Rev. Mary Carroll, Pastor of The Calvary Baptist Church will be the evening's principal speaker.

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ALTAR CALL

By EMORY G. DAVIS, D.D.
 NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

WHEN A POOL ROOM BECOMES A CHURCH

Thanks to the restrictive regulations on "worship" in the Roman Catholic Church, ecumenical effort must find a secular spot for a "religious" activity.

THIS IS what we've been trying to say for three years in this column--Altar Call. The "Altars" to which mankind are being called in this age are NOT inside synagogues, temples and churches, but rather in the world in which secular man lives.

In an effort to unite religious forces on the housing problem, the Archdiocese in Chicago along with other denominations is proposing a "prayer service" and in order for them to participate it cannot be held in a church or synagogue. So, they will go to a public building.

Here is where the Church will happen--where Catholics, Jews and Protestants find common ground for earth-to-heaven communication on neutral ground; where the only Altar will be the problem which draws all of them to the event.

THIS INDEED, is the challenge to the church as we know it today, and this isn't saying that what we have today is the Church. With all the varying creeds, dogmas and rituals existent in our several denominations and religions, there's no logical way in the world for us to get together the family of God. How long will it take the "church" to see that rituals divide--problems unite?

In coming to grips with the problems of secular man we must deal with man on a secular basis. This is not saying there is no role for religion, but that religion should be put in its proper place and that place is supportive.

SOME TIME ago I read of the efforts of a church group to have poverty people come to a meeting to develop a program which would have been government supported. Only a few came. The callers made the mistake of calling the people TO the church. For them, the best place could have been the pool room on the corner where idle, poverty-stricken males congregate.

No longer can the congregated church sit supinely by waiting for people to come to it. There are congregations of poor and disenfranchised all around waiting for the Church to set up an Altar in their midst. May we have more Altar Meeting Halls, Dance Halls and Pool Rooms and less in church buildings.

Look! Look! WHAT'S COMING UP?

A Combination BAKE and TAMALES SALE --that's what. Delicious pies, cakes, and tamales will be served all day at the right price Friday, January 27 at the Church of the Lord Jesus, 1412 W. Laura, Vegas Hgts., sponsored by Sister Rosie Mae Williams... For free delivery, call 642-5275.

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