

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

HOLD FAST

Text: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day. And not to me only but unto all them also that love his appearing. II Tim. 4:8.

Keep faith! Be strong! Hold fast!

HOLD FAST to Jesus Christ. "Remember Jesus Christ." Remember always, as center of everything, Jesus Christ. These words of Paul to young Timothy have added significance because of the man who wrote them. After his conversion, Paul lived a Christ-centered life. "I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me"--these words came from the very core of his being.



REV. D. M. CLARK

Hold fast to the truth. "False teachings are as dangerous as blood poisoning to the body, and spreads like sepsis from a wound." It is because Paul realizes the tremendous power of environment that he warns young Timothy in these stirring words.

THE FALSE teachings are the more dangerous because they come through persons. Paul names two of these persons. The whole quality of the life is affected by false opinions. The vision becomes distorted. Evil intercourse of any kind corrupts good morals.

Hold fast to your Christian morals. If we think we can play with evil influences, enter their company when it suits us and leave it as we entered; if we think we can read defiling literature and be none the worse for it, that we can tamper with doubtful courses and keep our real life unspotted, that we can be one of evil company and yet not become as it is, we are deceiving ourselves. The law of spiritual environment acts unerringly and unflinchingly. The gangrene of evil eats into the very tissue of the body and the fabric of the mind. It blunts the conscience, and lowers the standard of the whole life.

Paul advises Timothy not only to flee youthful lusts, but positively to follow after the good.

HOLD FAST to the Holy Scriptures. They have been yours from childhood. They are inspired of God. They give wisdom unto salvation. They are useful for teaching the faith. They give a man direction. They are useful for correcting error. They train a man in good living. They are equipment for the man of God.

Hold fast, Timothy! "My time is nearly over! You must carry on."

Church Door Open For Bible Study And Prayer

"Ye have not chosen men, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: That whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, HE may give it to you."

Pastor Elder J. C. Brown of Christ Holy Sanctified Church, Inc., 316 W. Madison Ave. extends a cordial invitation to the public to participate in Bible Study and Prayer Meeting conducted by Evangelist L. Harris every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Church.

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OEO Funds Project For Nevada Highschoolers

The University of Nevada was recently funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity to carry on an UPWARD BOUND project throughout the state. Total Federal funds are \$103,395 to provide a program for 75 young Nevadans.

UPWARD BOUND, sometimes referred to as a Head Start program for highschoolers, is an anti-poverty program designed to generate skills and motivation necessary to enable low-income youngsters who have had inadequate secondary school preparation to succeed at the college and university level of education.

The summer program of the UPWARD BOUND project will be an eight-week session to be held on the Reno Campus of the University. All costs of the program--including transportation to and from Reno, tuition, books, room and board, and incidentals--will be met by project funds.

The program will include academic classes, tutoring and motivational guidance, as well as recreational activities, field trips, lectures, and other special events. Qualified instructors and counselors, from both high school and university levels, will be employed to carry on the program.

TO BE eligible, a student must be completing the sophomore or junior year of high school this spring, show interest in and some ability to go on to school after high school, and come from a low-income family.

About half of the total enrollment (approximately 40 youngsters) will come from Clark County. Applications for students from this area will be processed by the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County, the anti-poverty agency for Clark County.

Summer sessions will be followed-up through the academic school year next fall with tutoring and guidance in the student's community and school. Nevada Southern University and the Clark County School District will provide these services to enrollees from this area.

Applications are now available at the Economic Opportunity Board Office, 932 West Owens (East Mall of the West Owens Shopping Center), from school counselors and from Neighborhood Council Service Workers. Persons having questions about the program should contact the school counselor in the high school which the applicant attends, or call the E.O.B. at 642-0707.

Applications will be forwarded to the State Advisory Committee to UPWARD BOUND which will make final selection, and those selected will be notified in late May. The program will run from approximately June 12 to August 5; final dates will be announced later.

For further information, contact W. F. Cottrell, Executive Director, Clark County Economic Opportunity Board, 932 West Owens, 642-0707.

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ALTAR CALL

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

"THE CHURCH BUILDING IS TOO SACRED"

What relationship does the church have with poverty? It was Judas Iscariot who said, "The poor you have with you always." It was the Man from Nazareth who said, "Sell all you have and give to the poor."

Perhaps neither of these envisioned the day of the War on Poverty, as it is practiced in the United States. And yet, the descendancy of the Nazarene--the Church--as an institution, seems to have more of the Iscariot's attitude of indifference than the direct concern of the Man.

SOME MINISTERS and churches have related to the War on Poverty with programs that enhance the church economically. Inescapably there have been those victims of poverty who have profited by the use of church building facilities for such creative programs. But, the church has not really run the risk in utilizing its facilities and the poverty program funds for the more daring and unpredictable programs.

What has the church in metropolitan areas done for the gangs? Has it been as ready to allow its building facilities to be used for those more destructive victims of cultural deprivation as it was to let the "little angels" come in for a few hours each day? The answer is, No.

A CASE in point is one of a group of gang leaders who are willing to lay down their switchblades of gang rivalry and unite their energies in attacking the more subtle problems of their existence. Their efforts to find quarters for meetings are being met with the stern resistance of rejection of the church.

I know of one church whose doors are open to these outcasts of our society, and despite the intimidation of police and do-gooders, the church's administration yet has faith in these gang-bangers, welcoming each and every opportunity to work with them.

The Man of Nazareth was not afraid of the demented demoniac of the Gadarenes. The church today must not be afraid of the social maniacs whose terror imprisons neighborhoods and schools. Perhaps a little love and concern on the part of the institutional church would redeem teen-age gangs.

NO CHURCH building is too "sacred" for humans, particularly those lost to violence and terror. The Altar of the Open Church, is not just for the well dressed on Sunday at 11 a.m. There are hundreds of teenagers despairing and some dying in violence on the very threshold of the church with the closed door.

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