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The Christian Informer



Emmanuel Church of Christ
Baltimore, Maryland

IN TIME OF CRISIS--Will You Be Strong?

When a severe trial comes many people are in danger of giving up—Little we know our weakness

CLOSE to Bracelet Bay is a bell buoy, marking a concealed and dangerous rock. In fair weather the buoy is silent and still. But during a storm, when the wind is high, and the foaming billows roll and beat against it, its tones peal forth as sweetest music to those who are in danger. How like some lives. Storms of afflictions and billows of sorrow elicit a melody unheard in the uneventful calms. Bitter experiences bring out unexpected graces; and disappointments burst open hitherto hidden springs of refreshment.

It is not when the cable lies coiled up on the deck that we know its strength. It is in times of storm and peril, when it is strained until it fairly sings like the chords of a harp, that we know whether it will hold. So it is often in the strain and stress of life that some seemingly strong natures are proved weak, and the weak are seen to be strong.

This principle is clearly illustrated in the experience of the disciples at the time of Christ's crucifixion. Of the twelve it is said: "Then all the disciples forsook Him, and fled." Matthew 26:56. But Joseph of Arimathea "went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus." Mark 15:43. He had been timorous when the rest were bold. Now he was brave when the rest were cowardly. The blow that had scattered the disciples shamed and stung Joseph into taking a noble stand for his Lord.

The cowardly action of the twelve showed the

basest ingratitude to the One who had done so much for them. Gratitude should have bound them to their divine Benefactor more closely than ever before. He felt most keenly their desertion in His hour of greatest need, for it aggravated His sufferings. But it did not chill His love for them, neither did He disown them for their act. "Having loved His own, which were in the world, He loved them unto the end." John 13:1. He was infinitely patient with them, and on the resurrection day He sent word for them to meet Him.

Joseph's deed was noble as well as beautiful. But how sad he waited until his best Friend was dead, to make confession and acknowledgment! How keen must have been the arrow that pierced his heart as he bore the body of Jesus away! Reader, do not wait until those who have been your benefactors are dead, to say the kindly and encouraging word. The flower in the hand of the living brings more happiness than ten thousand beautiful roses placed on the coffin-lid of the departed.

Let us heed these lessons well. This bitter cup of desertion by friends or kin is one that all true Christians must drink. One of the greatest trials is to be disappointed in those we love. Our Lord was tried by desertion that He might the better sympathize with us in our afflictions. Remember, He will never fail you. Trust Jesus, your best Friend, and lay Him in your heart as Joseph did in the tomb, and there will be a glorious spiritual resurrection in your life.

Why Should I Join the Church?

It has been the visible means through which God has worked for the spread of His Kingdom upon earth. Directly or indirectly all Christian influences have come from the organized Church.

I would not like to live in a place in which there was no Church.

No one would want to bring up children in a place in which there was no Church.

If every one should follow the example of the non-church member, there would be no Church.

It would be selfish and wrong for me to desire or expect the benefits of the Church while I am refusing to sustain the same by being a member.

By staying outside of the Church, I am

teaching others to do the same, for actions speak louder than words, and to that extent I am throwing my influences against Christ and His Church.

The ordinances of Baptism and Lord's Supper given by our Lord are within the Church, and faith and love and loyalty to Him should prompt me to obey His loving commands.

I would be speechless in the presence of God at the judgment, if I had refused to obey Him here.

I need the help of God's Church, and the Church needs me, therefore I should join it and do all in my power to establish it, for my blessing and for the blessing of all other people.

An Opportunity

The summer is an opportunity for a wider life outdoors and more time for recreation for most of us. It is a fact, however, that outdoors in itself will not widen our lives.

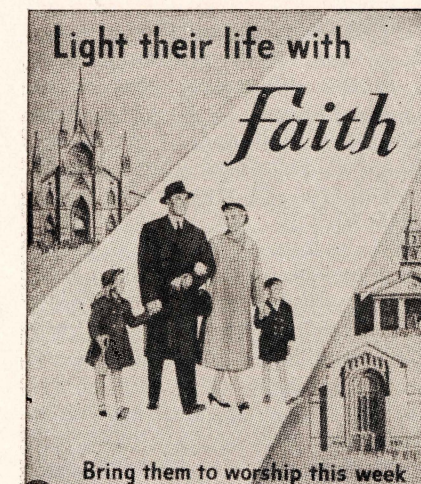
The wide life with far horizons and inspiring views is the life which is lived in the consciousness of the world of the spirit, or, as it is sometimes said, the world of four dimensions.

There one touches infinity and eternity; there one catches glimpses of a beauty and a love that are immeasurable because they are the beauty and love of God. Phillips Brooks once said that no landscape was perfectly beautiful to him unless there was evidence of human habitation in it, even a single house or a single column of smoke from a chimney. So most of us want companionship even in the great outdoors, if the companionship is good.

So in the fourth dimensional world we find our companionship with God, a personal companionship that makes the wide spaces meaningful, comforting, stimulating.

Let us go with God into the outdoors this summer; let us find Him in our worship, and in our reading and our prayers and then hand in hand with Him go out to a life that is wider than our sight, more beautiful than nature herself, from which comes an inspiration and a joy that lasts all the dark winter.

—o—
When the devil closes one door, God opens another.



Knock at the Door

Is there anything that fascinates the imagination of a man more than a knock at the door? No matter what he is doing, he will stop to answer. No matter what the hour of day or night, his curiosity must be satisfied. He may fear or dread what is on the other side, but he turns the knob and opens the door.

He may meet the terrible raven of Edgar Allan Poe or the jolly, pillowed figure of Santa Claus. But more often than not the door frames a salesman who finds every open door an opportunity.

The salesman may knock at many doors before he makes his first sale. He expects a sale at every door, but he will not be discouraged if the door is closed in his face. Every door is a prospect, and every open door an opportunity.

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door," John was instructed to write to the Philadelphian church.

Many Christian workers sit dejectedly beside a failure or triumphantly beside a victory, never realizing that God has opened more doors and more opportunities. A failure at one door may be the means of achieving victory later on.

God opens the door. We have the privilege of a new opportunity.

—o—
The evasion of duty will make a coward of any man because without realizing it he destroys his most precious asset—his respect for himself.

Summer Sins

During the summer months as the great outdoors invites us and vacations come to us, we oftentimes forget God and the Church.

It is this sin of neglecting our worship of God during the summer against which we must guard. Wherever we go for our vacation we ought to arrange to go to church. As we take our trips into the country on Sundays, we ought first to come to the house of the Lord to worship. We are to ask God for divine protection and guidance and thus temper our pleasures and guard our own hearts against wrong-doings.

Another summer sin is to neglect contributing systematically to the upbuilding of the Kingdom. The missionaries in China and in the various parts of our country must live during the summer as well as during the winter. Their salaries should be paid during July and August just as promptly as in January. To neglect to bring our offerings during the summer months retards the work of the Lord.

During the warm days of the summer many forget to read their Bible. In the evening they are either on their porch or they drive into the country, and by the time they get home, they are dead tired. "It is then too late to read the Scriptures" is their excuse. So they put off their Bible reading from day to day. However, we need to pray and read the Scriptures also during the summer months.

Let us guard our hearts carefully against these summer sins.



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THE CHRISTIAN INFORMER

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Ye should earnestly contend for the faith - Jude verse 3.

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W. H. (Baltimore) Taylor, Editor

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A NATIONAL JOURNAL

Official Organ of the National Christian Preaching Convention

If you saw it in the Christian Informer it must be true.

Editorial

WE ARE NOT ALL ONE

"For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you." I Corinthians 1:11.

You have heard the following statements. "We are all one. We have the same Bible. We all worship the same God. We are all going to the same place when we die." These and other similar expressions are used by people when speaking of the religious differences among the denominations.

These ideas are based either on ignorance of the teachings of the New Testament, or on studied attempts to deceive.

First of all, we are not all one. There is as great a difference between us and others in our religious teachings, as the light of day differs from the darkness of night. To say that "we are all one" is stating what is not true. If we were all one, that is, all believed and taught the same truth and conformed in our lives to the same principles, this unity would as surely manifest itself as fire manifests the presence of heat. On the other hand, the very fact that there exist so many denominations holding diverse faiths and teaching contradictory doctrines shows that we are far—very far indeed—from being all one.

True, we all have the same Bible, but it is not the same book to all people. Some regard it as a book that contains history and poetry worthy

of study, but it is all the work of mere men and to be regarded as such and nothing more. Others regard it as a source from which to draw proof-texts, and to be read in church as a sort of textbook. Now all these opinions concerning the Bible, which in deed and in truth the Word of God, have a different viewpoint. It is not to them the word which holy men of God wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

It is not for them that sure word of prophecy, where unto we do well to take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place until the day dawn, and the daystar arises in our hearts.

The Church of Christ (Christian Church) places a far higher value on the Bible than many others do. We regard it as literally the inspired Word of God, the power of God unto salvation to all believers, the rule of faith and life, the means of grace through which God calls men out of a world of sin unto Himself to live forever.

Do you believe that all of the different denominations are right?

Do you believe that a man made church, creed and doctrine is as good as the Church of Christ found in the New Testament?

We are not all one. To be all one, we must all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

I Cor. 1:10

* * *

Don't be mis-led by "Responsible Disciples--Ecumenical Concerns--and Open-Membership Propaganda."

Going No Where, and Don't Know How To Get There.

After reading the booklet "Responsible Disciples", published by our Open Membership Brethren. The Christian Informer is convinced that our Open Membership Brethren, don't know where they are going, and they don't know how to get there.

A few years ago, they tried to go with a certain denomination. Page twenty-five of the booklet says, "Reopening of union conversations with United Church of Christ (formerly Congregational-Christian and Evangelical & Reformed) is authorized by International Convention Assembly, Des Moines, 1956. Fraternal relations with Lutheran, Reformed, and Orthodox Churches and with union movements abroad."

We pray with Paul in Romans 10th chapter. "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel (open-membership brethren) is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

"RABBLE-ROUSER"

We quote from the May 1958 issue of the Christian Plea, Official organ of the National Christian Missionary Convention of Disciples of Christ.

"This Is Election Year." Have you given any serious thought to the choice of these leaders? Or, do you plan to follow the old pattern of waiting until you arrive in Oklahoma City in August to hear the best "rabble-rouser" nominate a personal friend who has none of the qualities you feel are essential to effective leadership for such a time as this." End quote. The name "rabble-rouser" may sound alright at a "Dixiecrat Convention", but not at a church convention. We were told that the National Christian Missionary Convention, had grown so intelligent, that there is no place in it for so-called "rabble-rousers" and doctrinal preaching.

* * *

"ELECTION YEAR"

Old Timers should remember, that it was "Election Year" when the National Christian Missionary Convention meet in Tulsa, Oklahoma. And the president, was taken home in a casket. Old Timers should also remember, that it was "Election Year" when the National Christian Missionary Convention meet in Lexington, Kentucky. Baltimore Taylor, then president, went to the Convention from Baltimore on a fast train. At the close of the Convention, he discovered that the fast train would be too slow getting him away from the Convention. He got a friend of his to get him away from the Convention in a high power automobile.

* * *

"Rock Of Ages"

Little Rock is fighting the Rock of Ages and the law of the land.

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee."

"On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand, All other ground is sinking sand."

MEN'S DAY

Men's Day at Emmanuel Christian Church, May 25th, was great. The following members and friends gave as the Lord had prospered them:

Miss Bertha Jackson, Mr. W. W. Clark, Minister; Mr. Charlie Shell, Mrs. Selma Draughn, Mrs. Cammie Smith, Mrs. Deloris Puryear, Miss Dorothy Lee, Mr. Henry Bynum, Mr. C. F. Bowen, Mrs. Ursella Rice, Mr. John Strong, Miss Bettye Semmons, Mr. E. C. Draughn, Mr. C. H. Taylor and wife, Mr. Raymond Puryear, Mr. Jasper Ford, Miss Emma Beverly, Mr. Z. N. Hicks, Mr. A. Halstead, Mrs. Sarrah Wilson, Mrs. Annie Smith, Mrs. Audrey Moody, Miss Carrie Anna Dial, Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Brown, Mr. Edwin Pinkston, Mrs. Cora Lee Jackson, Mrs. Julia Thornton, Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Mildred Brooks, Mr. Hubert Phillips, Mr. James Fitzgerald, Miss Sandra and Jo-Ann White, Mrs. Elizabeth Tillman, Mrs. Sophia Steven, Mrs. Annie L. Taylor, Mr. E. E. Litmon, Minister, Mr. Clarence and Gregory White, Miss Lula Booze, Mr. John Parker, Mr. James Hicks, Mr. P. J. Alexander, Mr. L. C. Sanders, Mrs. Irene Merritt, Mr.

Robert Carter, Mrs. Pearl McIntire, Mr. George Hamilton, Happy Serenader Singers, Mrs. Jessie White, Miss Shirley Smith, Mr. W. H. Taylor, Minister, Mrs. Pearl Wilson, Mr. R. Williams, Olin Mathis Boat Crew, Mrs. Ethel Henderson, A Friend, Mrs. Emma Hall, Mrs. Bessie Jones, Mrs. Arnita Ford, Mr. Alvin Smith, Mr. William S. Chester, Miss Beverly Bittles, Miss Edith Hunter, Miss Beverly Martin, Miss Luvenna Hunter, Miss Sharon Duggins, Miss Lenette Holly, Mr. Jay, Mr. George Smith, Mr. C. Morris, Miss Hilda Bennett, Mrs. Dora Williams, Mrs. Mary Burrs, Mrs. Sarrah Taylor, Miss Adrienne Smith, Mr. Frank Abraham, Mrs. Frances Frey, Miss Mary Burns, Mrs. Dorothy Simms, Mrs. Loretta Manings, Mrs. Daisy Drothy, Mrs. Nellie Wilhoit, Mrs. Carter, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Whits, Mrs. Olivia Edmonds, Mr. Lawrence Simms, Mrs. Cathrine Turner, and Mrs. Edmonia Foard.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Los Angeles, Calif.

The Christian Informer

W. H. Taylor, Editor

1702 Madison Ave.

Baltimore 17, Md.

Dear Sir:

This is just a letter of gratitude, and appreciation to your Journal, for publishing my poem, "It's Christmas", in volume No. 13.

I feel highly complimented that you grasped the inspiration I attempted to impart, and placed it where the Christians and all people could read it.

I enjoyed reading your Journal and found it very inspiring. I should like to continue to receive it. Enclosed find a donation to your Journal and God Bless You.

Sincerely,

Rev. Eula M. Smith

* * *

Elder W. H. Taylor:

I tried so hard to get to see you last year while I was attending the convention, but did not get to your house.

I would like to get the paper again. I have not had it for a long time. Enclosed is \$1.00 and you can start it whenever you wish. Sunday, June 22 has been set aside as Everett Memorial Day and burning of mortgage on the Annex he built on that day. I have been asked to serve as chairman and I am asking his close friends for a donation and your name will be placed on the memory list in his honor.

Thanking you so very much for whatever you do.

I am sincerely,

Lydia K. Everett

New And Renewed Subscribers

Mrs. Jessie White, Maryland; Mrs. Lydia K. Everett, Kentucky; Mrs. Frances Frey, Maryland; Mrs. Pearl Wilson, Maryland; Mrs. Romain Harria, Maryland; Mrs. Pearl McIntire, Maryland; Mrs. Lorain Holmes, Maryland; Mrs. Julia Thornton, Maryland; Mrs. Cammie Smith, Maryland; Miss Bertha Jackson, Maryland; Mrs. Mildred Brooks, Maryland; Mrs. Eula M. Smith, Minister, California.

Giving to God

The main reason why we should give to God and His Church is that God is owner of all. Now we shall consider how much we should return to God. We glibly assent in our hymns and prayers to the statement God is owner of all life and its possessions, and then we turn right around and give God only a small fraction of our treasure. Let anyone who doubts this keep a record of his actual contributions for a year. His actual giving will be far less than his estimated generosity. To excuse this penury, we rationalize and say: I give my share. I give the average. I give more than others. I give the same as last year. I give whenever there is need. I give whenever I go to church.

All these statements are actually irrelevant. At no point can our miserliness be justified by our neighbor's stinginess. The essential fact is not how much we give, but what proportion of our income do we give to the Church and Christian causes. It is not necessary that we know what the church budget is before we make a pledge. Our decision is simply what proportion of our income demonstrates that we acknowledge God's ownership of all. God's share of our income is that share which shows our love and gratitude for all He has done for us. When William Colgate started out to become a soapmaker, he was given this advice, "Make a good soap; give an honest pound, and don't forget God's part." He took this advice and lived by it from the start. His enterprise grew until it reached a point where he felt he no longer needed the income for himself. He set up an arrangement whereby all the profits were to be used for others. His experience was an illustration of Malachi 3:10, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, and test me now in this way, says the Lord of hosts, and see if I will not open for you the windows of the heavens, and pour out for you a blessing until there is no more need."

It takes a conscientious man to tell the difference between when he's tired and when he's just lazy.



A Hard Lot

A certain Christian, who thought his own lot rather a hard one, and who always wanted others to know just how long-suffering he was, had a habitual and somewhat commonplace reply which he gave to all who asked him how he was: "Oh, all right, I guess, under the circumstances."

It never seemed to occur to him, until a friend once told him so candidly, that the Lord does not expect us to live "under the circumstances," but above them, "in the heavenlies in Christ," where we are blessed with all spiritual blessings.

If you are like that melancholy Christian, get out from under the circumstances to the place where you experience the peace of God that passes all understanding and will keep your heart rejoicing, through Christ Jesus.

Very few things seem as bad the next morning as they did the night before.

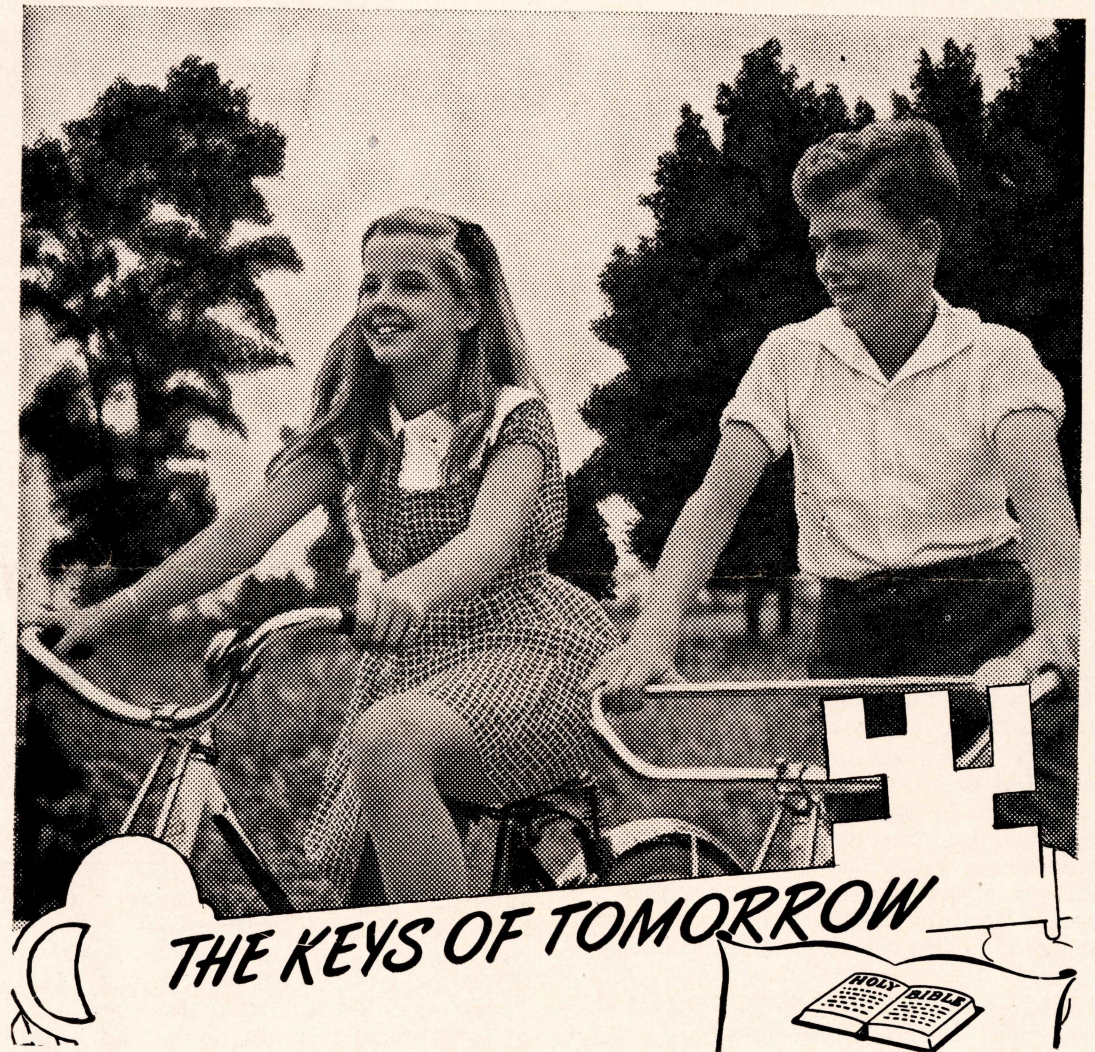
A Mighty Power

Prayer is the mightiest thing put into human hands. If we know how to pray, nothing is impossible to us. Prayer should be a thing of plan and purpose as well as impulse.

The power to pray, and the power to teach others to pray, is entirely dependent on the depth of the spiritual life.

The one real lack of today is a lack of genuine spiritual living.

It is only after bitter experience that some fellows learn to pick their friends wisely instead of to pieces.



Boys and girls like the two in this picture are the raw materials from which good citizens are made. They hold the keys of tomorrow and are the hope of America and the world.

As they grow older, they will acquire knowledge and receive training designed to fit them for the duties and responsibilities of life. They will realize that they have an important stake in government and in human society as a whole.

But they must be trained—and must

train themselves—to meet these responsibilities as they develop.

They must be taught that obedience to the law and respect for the rights of others is essential to the common good of all.

There is no better training in the elements of good citizenship than is embodied in the teachings of the Church and the great principles of the Bible. They are the touchstone of good citizenship and the spiritual basis of our inherited faith.

COME AND WORSHIP WITH US

A Welcome Awaits You Next Sunday

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone." Ephesians 2:20.

The New Testament Church is not a human institution. It is divine. It was divinely planned, divinely purchased and divinely built. This cannot be said of any other church in the world.

The Apostle Paul said in first Corinthians 3:10-11. Let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Realizing this we should give attention to that which is written in the New Testament about the church; so that we may not only believe in Christ's church, but know why we believe in it.

The Church of Christ (Christian Church) is the church we read of in the New Testament, because Christ said in Matthew 16:18, Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. Acts 11:26. The Apostle Peter said, Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God on this behalf. First Peter 4:16. King Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. Acts 26:28.

There were many opinions concerning who Jesus was. Some people thought He was John the Baptist come back to life, others thought perhaps He was Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets who had returned from the grave. After Jesus had heard these reports from His disciples, He asked them who they thought He was. Simon Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

This confession that Peter made, the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, is the foundation upon which the New Testament Church is built. Jesus told Peter that this confession he had made had been revealed to him by God. In other words, the divinity of Christ is a divinely revealed fact. God himself spoke in confession of Jesus as His Son when at Jesus' baptism the voice out of heaven said, "This is my beloved Son; in whom I am well pleased." The foundation stone, the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, is firm because it is affirmed by God himself. The miracles Jesus did were signs God gave to prove that Jesus is His Son. These miracles serve as strong assurance that the foundation of the New Testament Church is sure and secure.

The foundation of the New Testament Church is a firm foundation, we have the statement of Jesus in Matthew 16:17, saying that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. We need not apologize when we say, "I belong to the Church of Christ (Christian Church or the New Testament Church)," for that church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. That church is built upon a foundation against which even death could not prevail. Its foundation is solid rock, indestructible and everlasting.

The church belongs to Christ. This should be plainly evident to any one who has studied the New Testament. It is His because He built it. He said, "I will build my church." The church belongs

to Christ because He claimed it. He said, "I will build my church." The church belongs to Christ because He paid for it. He told His disciples how He must go up to Jerusalem and suffer and finally be killed. This was the price that must be paid for the church. In Acts 20:28, Paul speaks of the church of God, which He has purchased with His own blood.

Since the church belongs to Christ, there are some definite conclusions which we can draw. One is that He claimed only one church. It would be well for us to study the New Testament carefully to see just what this church was like, and be sure we are in His church. We can also conclude that since the church belongs to Him, He is the sole authority in it and no one has any right to change or alter in any way the church Christ owns. Another conclusion we can draw is that if the church belongs to Christ, it should wear His Name. The church is His bride. Rev. 21st chapter. The bride should wear the name of the bridegroom.

It is also reasonable to believe that the church which Christ will come to receive when He comes again is the church which belongs to Him. That is the church we must place our confidence.

Some have the mistaken idea that the building in which people meet to worship is the church. Of course, we know that this is not true. Certainly this was not what Jesus had in mind when He said He would build His church. Paul tells us that the church is the body of Christ. The church is a body of people who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, who have repented of their sins, who have confessed Christ before men, who have been buried in Christian baptism, and who live to serve, obey, and glorify Christ upon earth. Those who form the church continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayers. Acts 2:42.

Christ is not only the foundation, but He is the head of the church, and He is the only authority in the church. If we believe in this church, we are going to be loyal in our attendance of its services, we are going to fellowship with those who are members of it. We are going to support it with our means, and we are going to strive to bring others into it.

On thy Church, O Power divine,
Cause thy glorious face to shine,
Till the nations, from afar,
Hail her as their guiding star;
Till her sons from zone to zone,
Make thy great salvation known.
Then shall God, with lavish hand,
Scatter blessings o'er the land;
Earth shall yield her rich increase,
Every breeze shall whisper peace,
And the world's remotest bound
With the voice of praise resound.

1958

The 1958 session of the National Christian Preaching Convention, will be held at Emmanuel Church of Christ, Baltimore, Maryland August 8th to 12th, 1958.

Preaching, Praying, Singing and Shouting will be the order of the day.