

"IF WORSE COMES TO WORST"

ROM. 8:31, "IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?"

HERE IS CHRISTIAN REALISM. LET'S FACE IT.

LET'S LOOK AT THE WORST.

REAL RELIGION DOES NOT SAY, "YOU WILL NOT LOSE YOUR MONEY, OR, YOU WILL NOT SUFFER;

CHRISTIANITY DOES NOT ASK YOU TO SHUT YOUR EYES AND PRETEND THESE THINGS DON'T EXIST.

IT SAYS, "LOOK THE FACTS STRAIGHT IN THE FACE; SEE THEM IN ALL THEIR BRUTALITY AND UGLINESS; AND YOU WILL FIND, NOT THAT THEY ARE UNREAL, BUT THAT THEY ARE NOT TO BE FEARED.

DR. ELTON TRUEBLOOD, IN THE BOOK ~~WE GAVE OUR GRADUATES,~~ ENTITLED, YOUR OTHER VOCATION, SAID,

"PART OF THE PARADOX OF OUR TIME LIES IN THE FACT THAT THE GOOD NEWS ARISES, IN LARGE MEASURE, FROM THE REALISTIC FACING OF THE BAD NEWS.

OUR CHIEF GAINS NOW COME FROM THE COURAGEOUS WAYS OF REACTING TO OUR LOSSES."

I. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WORST THINGS THAT CAN HAPPEN TO US? (VS. 35, 38, 39)

1. TRIBULATION
2. DISTRESS
3. PERSECUTION, SUFFERINGS
4. NAKEDNESS
5. PERIL
6. SWORD
7. DEATH
8. SUPERNATURAL SATANIC POWERS
9. PRESENT OR FUTURE THINGS
10. ANY CREATED THING;

modern equivalent situations:

MAN, THE WORLD, THE FLESH, THE DEVIL.

II. WHAT SOME PEOPLE DO WHEN "EVERYTHING GOES WRONG" OR "WHEN WORSE COMES TO WORST." IN THEIR LIFE.

1. GIVE UP; QUIT; EVEN COMMIT SUICIDE.

2. THE STOIC OR FATALISTIC ATTITUDE.

3. RESPONSE OF BITTER REBELLION

4. "SCREW THEIR HUMAN COURAGE TO THE STICKING POINT" AND TRY THEIR BEST TO FACE THEIR DIFFICULTY ALONE IN THEIR OWN HUMAN STRENGTH. *"keep your chin up"*

III. WHAT THE CHRISTIAN DOES WHEN "WORSE COMES TO WORST."

1. NEGATIVELY, WHAT HE DOES NOT DO.

A. HE DOES NOT BECOME BITTER OR INDULGE IN THE CHEAP LUXURY OF SELF PITY.

B. HE DOES NOT QUIT OR GIVE UP.

IT IS A STRONG TEMPTATION TO RUN XXXX "OVER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY."

C. HE DOES NOT SEEK SATISFACTION IN AN UNCHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY.

~~D. HE DOES NOT FAIL TO MAKE A PERSONAL EXAMINATION OF ERNEST SOUL-SEARCHING.~~

2. POSITIVELY, WHAT THE CHRISTIAN DOES
WHEN WORSE COMES TO WORST.

A. HE SEEKS GOD'S FACE IN PRAYER

B. HE SEEKS GOD'S PEACE THROUGH FAITH.

- (1). DR. A. J. GOSSIP OF GLASGOW, WHO HAD HIS WIFE SUDDENLY TAKEN FROM HIM, ANSWERED THE QUESTION, "
"WHEN LIFE TUMBLES IN, WHAT THEN?" HE SAID
"WHY, THEN, GOD AS ALWAYS,
AND WHERE GOD IS THERE CANNOT BE DESPAIR OR FEAR."
(2). ANNIE JOHNSON FLINT WROTE THE FOLLOWING WORDS :
"WHEN THOU PASSEST THROUGH THE WATERS"
DEEP THE WAVES MAY BE AND COLD,
BUT JEHOVAH IS OUR REFUGE,
AND HIS PROMISE IS OUR HOLD;
FOR THE LORD HIMSELF HATH SAID IT,
HE, THE FAITHFUL GOD AND TRUE:
"WHEN THOU COMEST TO THE WATERS
THOU SHALT NOT GO DOWN, BUT THROUGH."

SEAS OF SORROW, SEAS OF TRIAL,
BITTEREST ANGUISH, FIERCEST PAIN,
ROLLING SURGES OF TEMPTATION
SWEEPING OVER HEART AND BRAIN—
THEY SHALL NEVER OVERFLOW US
FOR WE KNOW HIS WORD IS TRUE;
ALL HIS WAVES AND ALL HIS BILLOWS
HE WILL LEAD US SAFELY THROUGH.

THREATENING BREAKERS OF DESTRUCTION,
DOUBT'S INSIDIOUS UNDERTOW,
SHALL NOT SINK US, SHALL NOT DRAG US
OUT TO OCEAN DEPTHS OF WOE;
FOR HIS PROMISE SHALL SUSTAIN US,
PRAISE THE LORD, WHOSE WORD IS TRUE!
WE SHALL NOT GO DOWN, OR UNDER,
FOR HE SAITH, "THOU PASSEST THROUGH."

C. HE SEEKS GOD'S STRENGTH THROUGH WORSHIP

D. HE SEEKS GOD'S ANSWER THROUGH OBEEDIENCE

- (1). NEHEMIAH 4:9, "WE MADE OUR PRAYER UNTO OUR GOD,
AND SET A WATCH AGAINST THEM DAY AND NIGHT."
(2). WE SHOULD UNITE FAITH AND PRAYER WITH
PRACTICAL WORK AND ORGANIZATION.
(3). WHEN D. L. MOODY AND JOHN R. MOTT PLANNED THEIR
SUMMER SCHOOL AT EAST NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS,
IT WAS SAID THAT THEY PLANNED FOR THE SESSIONS AS THOUGH
THERE WERE NO SUCH THING AS PRAYER,
AND THEY PRAYED AS THOUGH THERE WERE NO SUCH THING
AS ORGANIZATION.

when worse comes to worst, the Christian
~~the~~ makes a personal examination of himself
(in earnest soul-searching)

- E. THE CHRISTIAN SEEKS GOD'S VICTORY THROUGH THE LORD
- (1). YOU CAN BE A CONQUEROR THROUGH THE RESOURCES OF YOUR PERSONAL RELIGION.
 - (2). BUT THROUGH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST YOU CAN BE MORE THAN CONQUEROR.
 - (3). MAKE YOUR STUMBLING BLOCKS INTO STEPPING STONES.
 - (4). TURN THE WORST INTO THE BEST.
 - (5). THERE IS AN INSCRIPTION ON A HALL IN NORTH WALES WHICH TRANSLATED READS?:
"WITHOUT GOD, WITHOUT ALL; WITH GOD, ENOUGH."

IV. WHEN WORSE COMES TO WORST FOR A CHRISTIAN,
THEN GOD INTERVENES!

1. GOD'S INTERVENTION AT CALVARY'S CROSS
FOR THE SINNER'S SALVATION. VS. 32-34

2. GOD'S INTERVENTION IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE
FOR THE BELIEVER'S VICTORY. VS. 28, 35-39.

- (1). THERE WAS A SCHOOLBOY IN N.Y. WHO WROTE IN AN ESSAY:
"I BELIEVE SO MANY TWINS ARE BORN INTO THE WORLD TODAY
BECAUSE LITTLE CHILDREN ARE FRIGHTENED OF
ENTERING THE WORLD ALONE."
HE HAD FIGURED THAT A TWIN IS GOD'S ANSWER TO
LIFE'S LONELINESS!

AND HE WAS RIGHT!

JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN INTO THE WORLD TO BE A TWIN TO
EACH ONE OF US, SO WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO WALK LIFE'S
WAY ALONE.

- (2). IN THE MEMOIRS OF TALLEYRAND THE GREAT FRENCHMAN
TELLS HOW HE ONCE HEARD THAT IN A NEARBY INN WAS LODGING
A GREAT AMERICAN GENERAL. HE WENT TO HIM AND ASKED
FOR LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION WHICH MIGHT HELP HIM WHEN
HE GOT TO AMERICA.

TO HIS SIMPLE REQUEST BENEDICT ARNOLD ALSHERED,
"I AM PERHAPS THE ONLY LIVING AMERICAN WHO CAN HONESTLY
LIFT HIS HAND TO GOD AND SAY, "I HAVE NOT A FRIEND,
NO NOT ONE, IN ALL AMERICA!"

LIKE THIS FRIENDLESS TRAITOR DOES SIN MAKE HOPELESS ALL
WHO YIELD TO ITS TEMPTATION AND POWER.

BUT JESUS WILL BE A FRIEND TO THE FRIENDLESS
EVEN WHEN WORSE COMES TO WORST.

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