

FRIDAY

“ ‘C’ IS FOR CONSCIENCE”

SCRIPTURE:

I John 2:1-6; I Peter 3:9-17

“I can do it with a clear conscience!” is too often the argument in the case for the New Morality as well as for many other attitudes and creeds. And it means absolutely nothing.

Like a radio receiver, a conscience is only as good as its sensitivity, or as in the use of a mine detector, silence is not always a guarantee of total safety: in either case the instrument can be out of working order.

Many things can distort and damage its efficiency: constant abuse can render it inadequate; careless disuse can allow the “battery” to go dead; and the inability to read it properly can be the most dangerous flaw of all.

Man’s conscience is that mysterious inner force or awareness that has the gentle pulling power of a tide — we feel its tug but can always ignore it if we choose. Some people say it is “man-trained;” yet without it we would have no consciousness of wrong and God would have no instrument of warning.

While the conscience of the world grows steadily duller and more atrophied, the Christian conscience becomes more sensitized as he grows in his faith. Once a man puts his life in God’s hands, this conscience suddenly begins to gain new vitality and aliveness. Nor is it an unpleasant sensation; it is part of being “new men” it is reassuring and exciting, one more proof of God’s power to re-create us.

Prayer: Lord, may I never be ashamed of my need for a clean conscience, or of my need for You to quicken it. Please give me the sensitive-ness to follow it. AMEN

SATURDAY

“ ‘C’ IS FOR CLEANSING”

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 73:13, 14; I John 1:5-10

Though we take cleanliness for granted in this country, there are areas in the world where cleanliness is a luxury.

The same thing is true of spiritual cleanliness. As Christians, so often we take clean souls as much for granted as clean bodies, forgetting the thousands of people around us to whom such an experience — a cleansed soul, a clean conscience — is an almost unknown luxury.

People who have not known the forgiving love of our Lord, must live day after day in the “filthy rags” of their past sins— things they have done they cannot forget, words they have spoken for which they cannot begin to find forgiveness . . . living lives that seem to become uglier and more repellent each hour of each day.

The human spirit was never meant to perform under such devastating or humiliating conditions. As a man who is physically unclean soon comes to despise himself and feel rejected by men, so a man who is spiritually soiled and unclean soon begins to despise himself and gives up trying to live.

God, knowing this, has provided a way of complete cleanness through Christ.

Prayer: Lord, forgive me for ever taking Thy love and forgiveness for granted. Lord, show me how I may lead others to the peace and relief of a truly, fully clean heart . . . why it is that only You can do this marvelous thing for us, is something we can only accept and be grateful for. AMEN

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021

“ ‘C’ IS FOR CONFIDENCE”

SCRIPTURE:

Philippians 4:6, 7, 12, 13

It has been said that one of the most important qualities in a mentally healthy person is that of confidence in at least one major area of his life. Without a certain amount of confidence, he feels inadequate, frightened, defensive, sometimes even hostile and aggressive.

And so confidence is one of the gifts which the Christian finds when he begins to follow his Lord. It is one of the most essential by-products of believing.

Is there an area in your life that is so shaky it seems to threaten your entire existence and keep you from doing even the simple, everyday tasks as you should? God’s will for you is a strong, abundantly fruitful life — and so it is not His will that any of us should lack inner confidence.

Therefore, no matter how ridiculous, how mundane, how unimportant it may seem to you, take it to Him, for we must learn to trust every detail of our lives to His understanding.

If something is strong enough to interfere with our ability to live a joyful life, it is powerful enough, important enough to commit to God.

Whether it is fear of losing your job, a husband or wife, the safety of a child or of dying — God surely can and will grant you the confidence you need.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to remember the words you gave us: that You came to give us a spirit of power and love and a sound mind. May I find assurance in Thy Word as I seek it. AMEN

(II Timothy 1:7) KJV

TUESDAY

“ ‘C’ IS FOR COMPASSION”

SCRIPTURE:

I Corinthians 12:4-11

Are you ever disturbed because you cannot seem to feel the same compassion toward one particular person or situation that you feel toward another? This is natural, for the word “compassion” means literally “with passion or deep feeling.” If we were to react so completely to everything we saw, we could not survive.

Yet, God knowing this, has created His Church to cover all the needs of His world by simply channeling the love of many, individual Christians into the many, individual needs all around us.

Because of this, our concerns differ from one area to another. What may touch one deeply may not arouse the *same* response in another. No Christian should criticize the sincere and God-given concerns of another Christian simply because he cannot share a similar degree of com- passion. But on the other hand, none of us should feel arbitrary guilt because *we* do not match another’s zeal in his work.

If God’s plan is to be successful He needs as many diverse men as there are needs in His Kingdom — and it is for *God* to quicken the spirit and motivate the heart. It is to Him and Him alone we are responsible. From this faithfulness, all other activity will naturally flow.

Prayer: Lord, may I keep my eyes upon Thee not men, so that my compassion may be quickened by Thy spirit and directed according to Thy will, I pray AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“ ‘C’ IS FOR COMMITMENT”

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 1

If a “hobo” can be classified as a person with no visible means of support, no goal, no useful purpose in life, then there are many kinds of “hobo” in our society today.

A “hobo” is not necessarily vicious or dangerous — he is simply nothing, at least as far as being a part of society and a purposeful world.

There are obvious hoboes, the dirty, bearded tramps who wander along the roadway, picking up an odd meal now and then, wearing cast-off clothes, grudgingly taking a job when they must eat.

There are spiritual hoboes, though, too — men with no visible means of spiritual support, no goal for God, no destination in life, and serving no useful purpose for God or man.

Like their physical counterparts, they go through life picking up odd bits of inspiration, assuming others’ cast-off beliefs, and blind and indifferent to the need all around them, or to their own potential as God’s men.

Somehow, though, these are more acceptable to us because physically at least, they are not always repellent; often they wear fine clothes, are educated and rather pleasant conversationalists. But their loss is just as tragic — more so — to God and the society they might be serving.

Prayer: O God, it is so easy to see merely the outward, physical devastation in men. Please help me be able to see inward, to the need of the spirit for Thee, to the hunger that so often lies hidden from us. AMEN

THURSDAY

“ ‘C’ IS FOR CHRIST”

SCRIPTURE:

John 15:1-15

“Christ, for all men may say of Him, is the center around which all goodness in this life pivots. And the man, who would be the whole man, will find this wholesomeness in true Christian living.”

What do we mean by this? We mean that in all we do, in the small things and the great, we are aware of our relationship to Him. We walk with Him beside us, we talk with Him listening; we see people as He would see them, we listen to them as He would listen.

Yet the only way we can do this — for we are only human — is to be constantly aware of His presence within us. Though at first this seems mystic and impractical, anyone who has experienced love will understand. For love motivates us toward perfection in all things — and if human love can alter the unlovely, how much more magnificently can divine love in us, and our love for our Lord transform our every action, response and attitude.

Becoming a man who follows God out of love is no more disagreeable or enslaving than following the one person you love more than anyone else on earth.

It leads to a wholeness of heart, an exuberance of spirit and a strength of body that nothing else can match.

Prayer: Lord, in my worship of Thee, I some- times forget to simply love Thee. Lord, each day make me more aware of Thy presence with me, and of Thy power to make me a better, lovelier person if I will only follow. Give me wisdom and faithfulness, I pray. AMEN