

WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?!

mt 6.33

The opening of that great book Pilgrim's progress is about as follows. A man in rags with his face turned from his own house. He don't know what to do? Along comes Evangelist and points up a narrow pathway and asks do you see the light way up there. The light is almost swallowed up in darkness. How pilgrim says I think I do. I think I see the light. That's the condition of the world today. That is condition of the church & the individual today. A man in rags. We think we see the light, but it's still indistinct. That's our Christianity of today. We seem to have made a beginning with understanding of Christianity. But we just see the light dimly. There are the questions at the beginning What is Christianity?

To get a clear cut picture of it, let us first see what Christianity is not. Christianity is not the church of today. It is not the institution. That's a hard word in a way, but it's true. The Christian church at first was trying in purity to live up to the ideas of Jesus, but when the martyrs at last won out & overwhelmed Rome & had power, they got away from the simple teachings of Jesus. Much good was done by the church, but it became more corrupt. Then came the Reformation. It cleansed the church, but again it did not go the limits in applying the ideas of Jesus. The Church of today as an institution is not trying to carry out the ideas of Jesus. The condition of the world today as Sir Ed. Grey said is an ultimatum to Christianity.

The church is not representing true Christianity. Neither is Christianity the teaching of special churches. It is not the doctrine of the fundamentals or the liberals of today. Both of them seem to hang on some things that are not so essential. Editorial by Chas Sheldon Gnats and Camels. Christ is so often forgotten in all this wrangling. We need unity of the church today based on Jesus Christ. Christianity is not a system of ethics, or a teaching on details as how to live. Its is not simply one of the great religions of the world.

We don't want to give a definition of Christianity in a technical way. Can we define Christianity by saying IT IS CHRIST. Christ is Christianity. Not the teachings about Christ, but Christ himself. He is

the centre, the core of Christian religion. Christain is enthusiasts for Christ. Jesus is the dynamic of religion. He combines every side of religion himself. He claims infallibility. He says, "I am". Therefore Christianity is the "first" religion. Its is supreme. It is to be considered first and foremost. It alone gives the grip that will save men. A man in climbing a high mt. fell and was almost dashed to pieces 100 of feet below. Only a small tree in the way kept him from falling. He called his grip on it the grip of faith. He had to hold on. So Christianity offers the world, as well as the individual that grip of faith, which alone will see it from destruction. It is first, all important and vital.

Christianity is something that must be sought. It is a living religion. It is not a dead form, something that is already made. Seek ye first the kingdom of God. It is a growing religion. Folks who claim that they have all of religion deny this one side of it. Ghandi, the great Indian leader when taken as a pris had one final word to his followers. He said; "Study the teachings of Jesus Christ and let yourself be led by them". This by a man who has not acknowledged Christ openly. Here is a seeker. Mary Austin has written an article "Do we need a new religion?" Do we? We have just touched the hem of the garment of the Christianity as it centers in Christ. The next few years will give us some astounding developments in Christianity, as we study to understand Christ. Will we learn to understand Jesus better than ever by seeking to find out just what he taught.

Christianity is a religion that includes everything, that includes the rule of mens hearts and lives. It is therefore a a religion of the spirit. The kingdom of God and its righteousness refers to this spirit that is in Christianity. It want to establish the rule of God, a spiritual rule, in the hearts and lives of men. What a wonderful and broad scope. It seeks to establish justice, love and truth. Christianity is an earth religion. It is here to transform every life by its power, to transform ever institution. As the sunlight seeks to be reborn in every bush and every plant, so the spirit of Christ is to be reborn in every human relat. Will we accept the leadership of Christ? He is the Master and the Guide. He is the Inspirer. *Greenfield*

II.

DARE WE BE CHRISTIANS?!

Luke 14:35-35.

In a recent magazine "The Student World" a just criticism is asked of Christianity on the part of non-christian students. In this group are found Moh Chinese, Hindu, Jews and others. This thought by one seems to sum up the criticism of Christianity, "With my Diogenesian lamp I search for that great Christian spirit that I am to admire, that I do admire and search in vain. We live after Christ, but not in the era of Chr. Our nation are not Chrisyian. Business is pagan. In reltaion of church to church, of race to race, or nation to nation in war hatred rules inst of love and light." Think that over. Its an honest & in many ways a fair criticism of Christianity. It almost makes us blush for shame that we claim ot be followers of Jesus Christ and have so little lived up to his teachings and life. In fact we are afraid to be Christians all the way thru. *of finding things to have no to their profession*

Christ had fed the 5000. A large number of people followed him for outward advantage. So he turns to them and places before them the real center of reli and says "Follow me." He places before them the full difficulties of following him. Many went back on him because they had not the courage to meet his challenge. Lets face just a few of the real difficulties of Christianity, so that we might know what it means. Chr says we must have a vision, an insight into things before we attempt to undertake them. He speaks about counting the cost. A man before he builds sits down & does just that very thing. A general before he goes into battle will do that very thing. As Christians we too often just go ahead light heartedly & take everything for granted. Lets get down to the study of Christ's life and words in real earnest. Lets try to understand them, not in a small petty way, but from the broad and deeper viewpoint. And as we study we will come to the conclusion, that Christianity is something hard, something difficult, something that means sacrifice.

When Christ says leave father and mother etc. he means it. When he says take your cross and come after me, he means just that—sacrifice. We have been playing, dallying with Christ and his words. Do we say its hard? Would you want Christianity to be anything else? It would be if it were made of poorer stuff. But anything less would be too small for us, would

leave us dissatisfied, hungry and half employed. It would'nt bring out the best in us. As it is it demands the highest that is in us. It makes of this "a world fit for heroes to live in."

To follow Christ means service. Christ uses the striking expression of being a salt. Salt preserves salt gives good taste, salt creates a thirst. As Christ we must do just this. We must preserve the world from evil, we must improve it, we must create a desire for the noblest and best. We dare not keep Christ for self. We must share him. "Who seeks heaven alone to save his soul—May keep the path, but will not reach the goal;—while he walks in love, may wander far—Yet God will bring him where the blessed are." Relig. is not a personal possession to keep for self. Personal relig must be contagious. Net work in Miss. River of wood to keep river from underwashing shore. No man liveth to himself. Christianity must get into every phase of human life. Holiness in ones own life. Society must be changed. Selfishness in business must go. War must go. seek justice, righteousness. Fight the wrong. Ghandi says, live as Chr. did, practice relig without adulterat and toning down. Love.

To go to the limit in applying Xtianity takes certain qualifications. There is a coward and a hero in the breast of every person. Relig. is a power which develops the hero. It takes first of all courage to be a real Christian. Dare we be Christians? Was the question asked in a recent discussion. Most of us live habitually far below our maximum energy and faith and courage. Why not try Christianity and put it into practice. Dare we adapt it in our business? Dare we preach it in race relationship? Dare we oppose injustice? Dare we live up to the ideals of Jesus?

To do this will require conviction. To do this will require faith. When Peter and John were called before the Jews because of their Christianity. They were open & frank about their conf. It is said, they took note and knowledge that they had been with Jesus. Can folks see that in our lives? Conviction that Jesus is right.

To dare to be christian takes consecration and love of the deepest kind. Mussolini of Italy has placed a most striking pledge before his followers. Dare you deny yourself pleasure, give up home etc. Will you die if necessary for the cause? Christ's challenge is far deeper and more worth while. Will we dare to be christians?

altan, 9/14/21
St. Peter
9/15/26

JESUS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Lc. 16:1-13

There are three ways of making a living. One may be a Parasite, one may be a Plunderer and one may be a Producer. One may simply feel that the world owes him a living and just keep on loafing. Another may feel that he must squeeze all that he can out of folks, so as to get along, whether this money be gotten right or wrong. While a third realizes that he must make the best of what he has, that he must produce something worth while and in that way make his living. In our scriptures, we find the man going thru these 3 stages. He was parasite, a plunderer and then became a producer. Jesus Christ uses this parable and so many others to teach us so real vital truths regarding economic conditions. We are all interested in this question. We all have to make a living. The greatest fights today are wages around this question of makin a living. There exist on one hand a vast concentration of wealth and on the other hand with a large amount of poverty. Just face these fact squarely. 2 % of pop. ownes 60 % of the wealth in our country. The poorest two thirds own but 5-6 % of the wealth. 180 men control over 1/4 of the wealth of the U.S. The land is getting into the possession of the few more and more. Large industrie are controlled by a few. On the other hand there is an extent of poverty that is alarming. 2 mill live below the low water mark, while 10 mill live in poverty in this rich land of ours. Less than 15 % of the families in this country receive a living wage of the govt. estimated at \$ 2000. One third of the familes in industry and mining earn only about 1/2 enuf to live decently. women's wages are even less. Employment is dangerous, when 3 to 4 mill are out fo work. Long hours ranging from 11 to 14 undermine the health of the worker in the steel-mills. There are almost 2 mill childtoilers. 57 % of the babies of workers die in infancy. 37 % of the mothers work in factories. 85 % of taxes got to war payments. As one faces these facts, one almost feels that injustice is rife. There exists a feeling of unrest that is alarming.

Jesus has so many teachings ot offer long this line. He worked. He supported a family of folks. He knew the high taxes. He knew poverty. He was right in with people and knew conditions.

As we think of the stories of Jesus of the laborer in the vineyard, of the ten talents, of the unjust steward and many others, we can't help but say that we haven't lived up to his teachings.

Jesus teaches first of all JUSTICE. Many other ways have been tried, welfare work, Open shop, trade unions, cooperative movements, profit sharing, socialism, but none has really helped. We need to try Jesus way. He demands fairness on part of all concerned. Modern fable of Money, machines and men is striking along this line. "an had money, he had machinery. But did no good" until wise man told him to get some men to run things. profit was good, he pocketed it all. Wise men told him men ought to have their share. Justice must come in with personality, accountability, brotherliness. Right to share, right to self protect. Justice in wages, in protect. Is not the human soul above the mere money. Human life worth more than machine.

Jesus teaches SERVICE. Only until all of work is considered a holy service will a better condition be brought about. The engineer & his service. The ditch diggers service. The coalminer a priest. The overall sainthood. A striking book has recently appeared, called "The Religion of the Social passion". It is the story of a man who works among negroes who are virtually slaves. To help them to raise them he works. The service actual men. Serve God thru man. He in every way tries to raise their social & religious condition.

Jesus teaches LOVE. The spirit of kindness, the spirit of consideration is fundamental with Jesus. Can love squeeze profits out of little children? Love means equality of opportunity. Love means brotherhood. Over hall in Moscow Marx' words "Religion is an opiate". That has been the idea all along. Sermons used to be preached to keep those that are down down still further, to make them content with their lot. The Golden Rule must be put into practice and it has worked. Golden Rule Nash has applied the ideas to his work. Higher wages. Cooperative share in the profits. Good treatment. It has worked out well. The principles of Jesus can be applied to business, to industry, if we will but try.

noted by Reginald Plant.

Jesus in factory - R. Plant

JESUS-THE COMMUNITY- THE COUNTRY.

Mark 12:13-17.

A few years ago the Supreme Court of our land had to decide a test case between the Church of the Holy Trinity vs. the United States, as to whether the U.S. was a Christian Nation. It was decided in the affirmative because many millions are trying to carry out Christian laws. Officially then our community, our nation is considered Christian. Such a decision is alright legally, but how about the reality? The Jews at the time of Jesus were also considered very religious at the time of Jesus, but did that make them religious? Jesus however goes deeper. Is it well therefore to test what we as a church, what we as Christians owe to our community and to our country in the light of Jesus Christ. Our community, our nation faces some of the greatest problems in these days & times. These must be solved and can be solved alone in the Jesus.

Jesus in our Script. was approached by the Phar. with a catching question, because they wanted to have something of which to accuse him. Is it right and lawful to give tribute to pay taxes to Caesar the Roman govt. or not? Jesus knew what was in back of this question immediately. Jesus knew that there existed a group of people called zealots, who tried to overthrow the hold of the Roman govt. upon the Jews. Blood had been shed. Jesus also knew that that the Phar. were none the less antagonistic to the Romans, even tho more underhanded. Jesus knew the intense hatred that there existed toward the govt on part of the Jews. He knew that they were trying to catch & involve him. If he answered one way the Jews would get after him, of another the Roman govt. would be down on him. Jesus knew that spirit of lawlessness on the part of some, he knew the prejudice, the hatred that existed. Jesus foresaw where all this would lead to too. He took an intelligent interest in his day and time. That's the first great lesson we get from Jesus. We must also know conditions. We call our land the promised land & it is more than one way. Do we know conditions locally. Do we realize that as a nation we have no real Christian record. When we average two lynchings per week, we must speak of race hatred. When we have more lawlessness than any other country we cannot boast. When we have burn

people and shoot them down in cold blood like
over at Herrin, we have no right to boast. When we
treat the immigrant as we do? How about the TeaPot
Dome scandal? How about treatment of Mexico? How
about our disobedience of law. Race prejudice is due
to false pride, false idea of race supremacy and to
paganism. How about paying 86 % for war, of the tax
is that Christian? Lets know facts.

Jesus knew these things of his own land. He knew
the rottenness of the Roman govt. He knew inside
conditions. yet he says give to the Caesar what
belongs to Caesar. Give the govt, its due. Jesus did
not permit his becoming king to overthrow the govt.
He advocated non resistance. He paid his taxes. He
never dwelt on prejudice. Jesus worked from the in-
side out. The spirit id wotr more than anything
else. Note the difference between Calvin & Luther.
Calvin felt the church must control the state. Luthe
thot the spirit must come into the people & work
out a diff. life. The greatest service, in the spirit
of Jesus, that a church, that christians can render
to a community & a nation is to furnish christian
men & women, grounded in the principles of Jesus
Christ, filled with his self-sacrificing spirit, doi-
the right. If we are the best kind of Christians that
we can be, do the best we can, we will make our nation
more worth while. The U.S. is a melting pot of nation
Treat everyone else in the spirit of the golden rule
In Christ there is no east or west. The Seamless
Robe. "For mine onw bosom is the paradise*Where all
my life's fair visions are unfurled."

Its the deeper life then that Jesus leads into as
being most worth while. Give to God what belongs
to God. A Japanese by name Neesima read Gen. 1:1 and
then we can link it up with this, he said I belong
to God, if God made all, so I must give myself to
him." That is what Jesus asks us to do here. That
is the most important duty we have toward our country
is to be the best kind of a christian that I can
be, give myself to God and all weill be well. The
laws, the customs, the business affairs of our
country must reflect God's kingdom. The man without
a country is indeed a sad man. Allegiance to God
is the highest kind of allegiance, is the highest
local and national patriotism.

at amendment!

QUALITIES OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

2 - " Virtue " - 2 Peter 1:5-7

Some one studied a certain spider as it wove its web and noticed how it was woven to entice to death some prey. "Spider of Death" was name given to that particular insect. Today death-traps are being woven around the spirit of man, some try to reduce every mystery to mechanism, every freedom of spirit to necessity of flesh, to reduce drive of power to the drift of conditions. Are we then to control the time or is the time & spirit of time to control us? Stanl Jones in recent article; "What Should we do now?" say what has happend in world not changed my code of morl I did not have one code Dec.6 & another Dec.7. I do not get my code from last person or last situa ion, but from Christ who is stedfast. To have that kind of Christian Character we need as apostle Peter says Add to " faith virtue." Virtue is one of the charact we need in these days, for it implies so much.

As the apostle uses that word in its original meaning we note that it comes from " aretas " which means valor, or virtue, high-mindedness, anything worth while. The word virtue comes from " vir " which means strength and power. Virtue then is in the first place inner power or effective power, a strength that works out in life. You recall the incident in Jesus' life when he was going thru a crowd, some womn touched hem of his garment. He lookd abt. & asked who had touched him. Disciples said; How can we know in this crowd. But Jesus " I know, for a virtue or power has gone forth from me." It is then that deep inner energy w ich comes from vital contact with God. Jesus had it, because He maintained that relationship to the Heavenly Father. It is such virtue, strength of body, mind and spirit which we can maintain at this time. In times like these when we feel the pinch of inconvenience more & more, when there is so much destruction in the world, we need to realize that as Xtians we have life's untouhable possessions. Faith in God means that there is no spiritual collapse in our lives. We never lose all, even tho we loose poss till we lose our souls. Some yrs. ago appeared in a cartoon the idea of soldier, who had wrought destruct in Belgium saying to a priest; as they looked at a destr yed church; " Lost all, sir, haven't you?" The reply came; " No, sir, not our souls. " That is " a. The

great that which we need to keep in mind. We need to realize that "without God, we cannot; without us, God will not." Such inner strength must be our virtue in a time like this.

But that "virtue" which as a quality of Christian character is so vital has a second consideration which is vital. Virtue also means courage, resoluteness, determination to see a thing through. The word courage is used somewhat loosely. Too often we refer to it merely as valor on battlefields. It does have the meaning of fearlessness. Out of our hearts fear needs to be taken in these days, because we trust God. Then courage involves dogged perseverance, keeping on when it seems impossible to carry on the work and the task. You know the stories of remarkable heroism in N.T., of Paul the dauntless, who kept on in spite of difficulties; of Stephen the martyr, who rose above the persecution & death with highest courage, of Jesus Christ our Lord, who faced the cross with such great virtue & strength & perseverance. Then there is another kind of quality in courage that is not often thought of, namely self-discipline. This is the courage of one who is really afraid, who is timid, who is backward, but gains mastery over fears and discouragements. Do not think that great heroes had no fear. They overcame. Some are by nature sensitive and yet win out. Incident told of lighthouse keeper who had to go to shore for an errand. He left his daughter Ethel Langton in charge. A storm arose, which it made it impossible for him to return. The young girl only fifteen years old faced the situation alone. For 3 days and night she went up that tower, lit the lights, while the fierce gale was blowing, & the waves beating against the lighthouse. Religious faith gives such deep courage, love for country does also. (Wm. McDougal in "The Energies of Men" on courage.) We need courage to face ourselves, to admit our wrongs, to face discouraging circumstances in life, to face world today. After the great Cathedral in fates of war saw the great building destroyed said; "We will rebuild." That took courage to say that. Today we need to say amid all destruction; "We will rebuild a Christian world, a Christ-like character and keep everlastingly at it."

QUALITIES OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

3 - Knowledge - 2 Peter 1:5-7

There are two statements which need to be weighed in the balance. One is this ; " Ignorance is bliss" and the other; "Knowledge is power." Some boast of their ignorance and say it gives one deeper faith not to know too much. But ignorance has been on the other hand one of curses of mankind leading to much trouble and misunderstanding. While it is also that knowledge is not always power, yet the Bible our Lord and here the apostle Peter uphold the idea of knowledge as one of the qualities of Christian character. Add to your virtue knowledge. Just what is meant by the deeper implications of knowledge it is our purpose to understand.

An ancient churchfather ~~compared~~ has said the getting of knowledge is something akin to the work of a bee gathering honey. In the first place ~~the~~ bee goes out & gathers the sweetness from the flowers. This is the first consideration in knowledge the getting of the facts. Our president recently appointed a fact-finder for the country as a whole, namely Mr. Archibald McLeisch, who is a fine poet in his own right and the head of the Congressional Library at Washington. As Christians we need knowledge of the facts of Christian life. So little is known by the average Christian of the Bible, the facts of it and about it. So very little is known about the church, the local church. We need to know its history to be vitally interested. We need to know the larger work of the Kingdom, as it is being carried on its various phases of work, so as to have an intelligent understanding of the great task. More of our people need therefore to read our church papers, to become vitally interested in missionary work. We need to know the facts about Christian living, the creed, the ethics of conduct of life. But more than that we need to know ourselves better, our strength or our weakness, We need knowledge of men, so that we might be helpful. The fear of the Lord is beginning of knowledge. Too little awe and fear of God, too little respect for His great universe, his almighty power. Wonder is the beginning of knowledge, Get out of complacency and feeling that we know it all.

Knowledge goes deeper than mere facts tho. As the bee gathers ~~the~~ sweets for materials, she assimilates it, makes it her own & transform it. We have so many facts at hand today, that we do not assimilate material enough. We need to interpret the facts. Th. Carlyle in getting ready to write his famous work; "The French Revolution" read assimilated 200 diff. books and many articles, then went into quiet place & brood over the facts. He made them his own. Moses was in the quiet of the wilderness for 40 yrs. thinking about justice, until he could use. Jesus prepared in 30 quiet yrs. & then 40 days of intense meditation until he could decide. Understanding of the problems is essential. As we brood over deep things of life, the real knowledge will never be taken away from us. The meek, those willing to learn, to sit at the feet of Jesus, these ill be taught. As Mary sat the feet of the Master, she learned to understand his deeper instant. "My thoughts are higher than your thoughts."

That bee, however, does one other thing with that material she has gathered & assimilated, she transforms it into honey. She reworks it. Here we come to the real essence of knowledge as Christian characteristic. It is the deeper judgement, which comes after having weighed diff. considerations. It is insight which is given, after having taken time to think about matters. It is wisdom, which is a deeper form of knowledge. To have zeal without knowledge to guide it, is like a ship without a pilot. Faith without knowledge is dangerous. It will pervert notions of God. Like the mountaineers in southern hills, get rattlesnakes to bite them, saying God will protect them. That is zeal without knowledge, that is false idea of God. We should not tempt God in that way, it will undermine sense of right and wrong; it will make men go off on a tangent to stress one notion. It makes religion so one-sided, that little value in it. Wisdom gives us a better understanding of God. It shows us ourselves as sinners, yet in image of God & saved through the power of Jesus Christ. It gives us insight into the meaning of life. Mere knowl. will not shed light on eternal questions. Wisdom is in God, yea God is wisdom itself. Estimate matters in same manner as God thinks of them, then on path of wisdom. David Grayson in "Native American" tells of learning from everybody & everything & distilling wisdom for life.

we need to do this. Cf. G. Santayana - Faith - it is not wisdom only to be wise - it is wisdom to believe the best.

QUALITIES OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

4 - Self-Control - 2 Peter 1:5-7

Benj. Franklin discovered electricity and thus introduced a new force in the lives of men. But this new force had to be understood and controlled before it could be used by men for real service. The laws of conduction, of directing thru a channel, like a wire - the matter of induction, of transforming the power and magnetizing it and the laws of insulation, had to be ascertained before new power could be properly used. Here we have an illustration of what the apostle Peter is trying to achieve in a Christian character that would be useful among men. In men a new power of personality thru Jesus Christ, but this power must be channeled, must be quickened & controlled so as to be of real service to men.

God makes human beings the channels - like the wire to current of electricity - conduction - for His great powers. God gives to men so many gifts. He has not only given him body, with all of appetites and desires, He also gave him emotions, feelings, deep current in the will and soul & spirit. We often think knowledge is sufficient for meeting the issues of life, the knowledge of our gifts, but Peter said to your knowledge add selfcontrol. Wisdom & intellect not enough to preserve us in the struggle of life to build a Christian character. We need to supply temperance or control. A lady in my student days would quite often say of people and her observation of them; "If a person has not no temper, he is'nt worth much." There is something in that, we must have our own individuality we must insist upon it. Solomon had wisdom, but he lacked selfcontrol. The spirit may be willing, but the flesh may be weak. "Even the saintliest man with all his gifts needs to be on guard." Watch and pray, Jesus said. Hours of temptation await the hero. Elijah fretful and ungenerous. Paul also tells abt. temptation to forget the hard struggle of life & to let oneself go into a life of ease. Christian life is a constant struggle to make the best out of the gifts God has bestowed. These gifts God has given us must be quickened inducted - magnetized, transformed. Current from outside wires, inducted into house, with less power, or raised in power for factory. Man must guide His powers thru Grace of God. St. Francis describes two ships, one very

fine and large, filled with richness. Storm arises at sea. The ship lacks a skilfull helmsman, a pilot and the ship is wrecked. All beauty and goodness amt to very little. Another ship is smaller, not so well equipped. When storm arose, the skilful helmsman or pilot directed it safely thru to the harbor. Man may be in prosperity, high estates, with many fine gifts, but if he has not the proper helmsman or selfcontrol, his life may be wrecked. Man has a certain amount of freedom, but conviction must be his "all things are ours, but we are Christ's." With Channing we need to say; "Act frankly, talk gently, await occasions, hurry never." Noise is weakness. Gentleness is controlled strength. Fear makes for haste. Confidence is composed. Transform your powers thru contr

All power dangerous unless controlled. Gr. power of electricity needs to be insulated, otherwise rampant & destructive. Needs to be temperance there. "Temper my spirit, O Lord." It is not merely physical control of appetites & desires, but spiritual temperance. Our spirit must be put into the fire of life, made one with God, hammered out by self-control into fit instrument of service. Poems Of Experience - see attach note. So much harm is done to the cause of the Kingd. bec. Christian lack selfcontrol of tongue, of temper, of spirit. Even moral power, unless controlled can do great harm. Elijah had to face peril. He let himself go at Mt. Carmel & had to be taught lesson at Mt. Horeb, that not by force, or wind & earthquake but by still msall voice, men are to be won for Chr. So often men working all day & women too, loose control of self, take it out on family in anger, & temper. This is not fair. We need to be patient in bearing seeming defects in others, for we ourselves have many weaknesses. We want others perfect, but do not amend our own ways. We like to correct others, but do not want to be corrected ourselves. We need to be Masters of ourselves, our tongues, our senses, our minds, to ab fr. evil thinking. Restrain self, or control self by ehacking powers, so as to become servants of others. Jesus Christ has his self at complete command and showed a life of self-control.

Two horses hitched to wagon "essament of Beauty".

Intillect and desire. Reings needed to control other wise run away. All under control of Christ.

QUALITIES OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

5 - Stedfastness of Patience - 2 Petr. 1:5-7

"The race is not always to the swift" is the lesson drawn from parable of contest between hare and tortoise. The observation we make of life and of persons is this that the brilliant, the keen, but sometimes wavering, temperamental people are not always those who achieve the most; but often those who are steady dependable and reliable attain great success in the end. To the qualities of Christian character are to be added then to self control that of stedfastness or patience. Peter puts this a bit further along in the qualities, because it is more difficult to achieve. There are few really patient & stedfast people. All of us are impatient, parents with children, adults one with another. Jesus only one really patient.

Any kind of stedfastness of patience must be built on solid foundation, or basis which must be found in God. "He is my Defence, I shall not be greatly moved." When we have the conviction that God is the real foundation of our life, when we are willing to have faith and trust in Him then we can be patient & stedfast. A famous writer, Richter by name, has written a story called; "Dream of the Universe." With an angel for guide he was launched upon a great trip thru the universe. They passed thru Saharas of darkness, thru wilderness of death. On thru starry fields, and forests, one haven after another opened up. System after system, galaxy after galaxy, awful altitudes piled up. It seemed to be a never ceasing flight. But the human heart awed by all this infinity, he yearned for a narrow room in which to hide. It was too overwhelming. Then angel left him and he was alone. "End there is none." Left alone in center of universe. Suddenly he saw in his vision a woman with face of Madonna and by her side an Child. The Child was king, with a crown of thorns on his head. Then I realized that over agent the universe there was a God who loved & cared. If the soul of man is to have patience, if it is to endure, it must realize in this Universe there is a personal presence, that of God, a Mind that thinks and plans, a Heart that feels and loves. Said of Moses, "He endured as seeing Him." That is the basis of any real stedfastness or endurance or patience.

We have the assurance that God will win, whether we win or lose. Christ must reign. The Church has come thru before and will again. Ideals live on. God's ability is greater than any calamity that comes upon us.

Such steadfastness of faith in God must create in our hearts a spirit of endurance and patience. There must be perseverance, an ability to see things thru. It is 'nt so much what happens to us, as it is how we react or respond to the happenings. You have observed this already. You have noticed a very strong wind blowing over a field. On this there were reeds standing stiffly upright, unyielding. The wind blew these over. But on that field also were willows. Under the impact of the wind they bend over to the very ground, but when wind stopped they came right up again. Here was elasticity. This was steadfastness and patience. In human experience we are exposed to stress & strain of life. Do we break under it, or do we give way and then come back. That is endurance. "We need in these days to live one day at a time. The flashlight is most effective at short distance & not much use at a great distance. So in life, our lives are to be lived in short spans of life, but at same time we need to carry on. ~~King's exhortation~~ by G. Klinge "God broke our years to hours and days, so that we can go along."

And yet this spirit of steadfastness or patience involves a going forward with a purposeful courage and persistence. There must be an inner adherence to purpose that will never deter us from gaining our goal. All persons of achievement have had this stedi-ness of purpose. Jesus set his face steadfastly toward Jerusalem, even tho it meant suffering and the cross. Such determination and will power lends strength to life. Give us staying power of grace, not to be tossed to and fro by unguided emotions, or sudden burst of feeling. Wm. Wilberforce of England showed such steadfastness in overcoming the slave evil. For 20 years he persisted in bringing the matter up in parliament. He studied the various issues that were involved & approached the matter from all angles until at last he succeeded in having freedom won for all slaves in British empire. "Sustain and abstain" was motto of famous Baron von Nicolai. It is this spirit in Christian service that needs to prevail, if we are to have steadfastness as a quality of Christian character.

QUALITIES OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

6- Godliness or Piety - 2 Petr. 1:5-7

Up in the White Mts. in New England one comes across trees lying flat on the ground with roots exposed, the result of a hurricane. Besides these uprooted trees tall ones still stand. The tree without adequate hold on the soil fell, while those ~~not~~ deeply rooted held fast.

In trying to live Christian lives, we need to realize that soul of man must be deeply rooted in the soil of God, in eternity, otherwise will be uprooted. That is why Peter brings in "godliness" or piety as a characteristic of a Christian further along in his list. Faith is not much without godliness or godlike living. Godliness is faith alive. Patience without godliness is almost impossible. So all the qualities mentioned depend upon maintaining a spirit of piety.

The root meanings of this word are vital in this connection and we need to keep them in mind. The first one is reverence. We must stand in awe before God and draw upon Him for our resources otherwise cannot live life as Christian characters. When Louis XIV of France died in last century, the court preacher Bousset was called upon to preach the funeral sermon. A great crowd

had gathered, the expectancy was high, for the preacher was well-known for his eloquence. He startled the audience by saying; "Only God is great." That is what we all need to understand today - that only God is great and we need therefore to have a deep reverence for Him. Clement of Alexandria, one of the early church fathers, ascribes a word of Jesus which is not found in the Bible, but which is significant, "He that works shall reign and he that reigns shall rest. Look with wonder at that which is before thee." We need to stand in awe and reverence before God and life, so that we might appreciate what He offers to us. When we recognize greatness of God, we are released from dominance of self, then we see ourselves in our true relationship to the great and Mighty God. Then we are released from dominance of others, what they may think about us and our doings. We are released from fear of

Death for we realize that God is life. We overcome anxiety, or boredom (for life is meaningful) and from prejudice. Life becomes more creative, for we rest on God. This past week Sidney Lanier's 100th birthday was celebrated. In spite of deep poverty & much trouble

life, he had a deep faith in God and he expressed this in a beautiful poem "The Marsh-Hen of Glyn" in which he says; As the marsh-hen secretly builds on the watery sod. Behold I will build me a nest on the greatness of God; I will fly in the greatness of God, I will heartily lay me a hold on the greatness of God"

A second root meaning of word "godliness" is "loyalty". It is the adjustment of life to a higher order, it means centering your attention upon one important factor, like centering upon Christ. Loyalty means conviction of and adherence to the noblest and best. So the word "piety" has come to a great meaning in the history of the soul and the church. After the Reformation there came a period of rationalism into the church, in which the intellect was held supreme and the soul negligible. But into that period came the "pietists", under the leadership of a man like Philip Spener, who insisted upon the reading and study of the Bible, upon prayer, upon worship, upon devotional life, so that life as a whole might be strengthened. Devoutness is needed today. We become too superficial in our Christian living, because we do not look up enough. Walking along the sand dunes of northern Indiana, someone said; All this sand & nothing but sand." The reply was; "But above is God." In the desert of this world and life, in the sameness of things and materials, we come to understand that above is God and to Him we return. We need the confession of sins, the lips moving in prayer, save the mind and the soul of the world. Man is over nature and under God. We must look up in order to understand what is below; we dare not look down so much, that we are incapable of believing what is above. (Hough)

A third meaning of word "Godliness" is that of God-likeness in spirit and in life. The story is told of Stephen Girard of Phila, whose boss told him he must work on Sunday, which Stephen refused to do and was fired. A bank asked for advise on a person for the work of the boss. He recommended Girard and asked why he said; "If a man has principle like that he can be depended upon." Be like God for we are created in His image. Be like him in character. Love enemies, in His love to men, in his patience, in his forbearance in his hopefulness, in His toil & labor for them, as He strives to win the for Himself and make them it for the Kingdom of God.

Stacy J. Black Prince who is a man of faith, greeted by people who present to him love & honor, golden sheep, roses, rare books, flowers, at least father gave him to inheritance, only a few days father's spirit was in his heart

QUALITIES OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

7 - Brotherly and Divine Love-2 Petr.1:5-7

Rob. Browning in "Death in a Desert" in which he describes the last days of John, the apostle of love, he has him say; "For life -- is just our chance of 0 ' the prize of learning love." Life is made for love, not low, downpulling emotion, but uplifting and inspiring affection. As we view Peter's qualifications of a Christian character, we do indeed realize that love-brotherly and divine love is a vital part of fully-rounded out. character.

This love is a fitting subject for Sunday before Lent, as well as a most needed note in the world of today with its strife & hatred. We read the epistle about love before, which expresses in such a wonderful way, Paul's conclusion & message to the Corinth who were so filled up with dissensions. As we put together these various strands, we catch first -

That love is primary quality above all others in Christian life and character. Both Peter and Paul insist on love being greater than other quality of character. The ancient Greeks that eloquence was worth so very much, but that without love amounts to very little. Wnedell Philipps fellw below, in his address and gave as his reason to a friend; "I had nox cause to plead." Then ancients that a great deal of prophecy, mysteries thru which tried to unravl future. Many on that path today again. But of little use if love of man & God does not rule the heart. Much attention was paid to knowledge & we still do today & we need to. But knowledge in itself is not enuf, to analyse, to synthesize, to be scientifici is not enuf, but when love is added then real power develops out o research and knowledge. Faith without love is of little value. May know all doctrines, may have fullest trust, and yet be hard, as Brandt on Ibsen's great play by that name has no love for his loved ones, in spite of gr. faith & ruins lives. "Even " charity" the doing of good without love is not valuable. Just clanging cymbal. Hutt people more by offish charity than do good. Joh. Bojer in The "Great Hunger" tells how Peer had to sow seed in enemies' fields in order that he might keep his soul alive. The soul of man & of the world needs to be kept very much alive today through love.

In a very magnificent manner the qualities of love are expressed, in the root meanings in Peter & in Paul. Peter-philadelphia" lover of brother and "agape" highest kind of love. Paul describes love in 3 passive characteristics, 8 negative and 4 active. Love suffereth long (how often we see that in home) i kind. Love is never envious, doesn't brag, is unseemly. Seeks not its own, is not selfish, not provoked, beareth all things, hoped all things, meddureth all things. Love loses itself in other. It has quality of self-denial & sacrifice that is very magnificent. On tombstone of David Livingstone these words in Westminster Abbey; "A man who gave himself at all times and everywhere, gave his strength to the weak, his substance to the poor, his sympathy to the suffering, and his heart to God." There is a description of a loving heart & its qualities.

Love-which is brotherly and divine has in it the quality of permanence. One of the most magnificent sentences in all literature is this one- "Love never faileth." It looks today as if it were failing. Is it? We have not tried it. Knowledge shall be done away, prophecy shall cease, but love goes on & one like an endless stream. It is not easy today to keep submerged moods of hatred. It will be easy to forget that Germans, Italian, Japanese are also God's children. We need to respond to all appeals for charity today, help as much as we can. We need to have fellowship of suffering, as we realize that much suffering is to come upon us. The church today needs to be an "island of sanity", an island of love in a sea of insanity & strife. Here we must have a place of refuge for distressed spirits, a high place from which to look down upon life's confusion & get our bearings again, a tiny cell for Eternity, where we believe that love will prevail; a sanctuary for men's souls where in communion with God they may acquire fresh store of comfort & courage and find new strength for toils of labor and home. Here words of love alone need to be spoken, no word of hatred. "Remember Pearl Harbor", but above all "Remember Calvary" the love of God, which needs to shed abroad in our hearts the love for men.

FAITH AND FUNDAMENTAL INSTINCTS

Mystery of Incarnation- Parental instinct in man
Pugnacity- whole of Chr lard and strenuous life,
His summons to follow Him appeals. Befr. cross we
feel fear & selfabsaement, in resurrect.hope & asse
In Church and Saints we come upon gregarious inst
In Holy Communion, Hunger and thirst
In sacrament of penance-selfabasment & self assert

Dangers in Fundamental Instincts

(cf. E.E.Kirk: Some Principles of Moral Theology)

Hunger & thirst sources of gluttony

Pugnacity might go into anger

Selfassertion- pride.

Sex -- lust

Acquisitiveness might end in avarcie

Sloth might result from too much repression.

Envy might result fr. combination of all these

Christ Sublimated primitive instincts

In Resp. to instinct of hunger- Holy Communion

In resp. to gregariousness - Church & Kingd of God

Selfassertion & selfabsaement find their meeting

place in teaching on forgiveness & in crucial para

dox: Whosoever shall lose his life shall find it

Luke 9:24

Pugnacity is called out by appeal to follow Him
at all costs.

The two sex instincts- mating and parenthood- are

challenged by His gr. claim to put all under Him.

Acquisitiveness is superceded by Stewardship;"

"Where you treasures are there is your heart."

Curiosity- prim.instinct- Search for & hunger &

thirst aftr reightesouness. Keep on learning. Chr.

teaching, his parables. Chr. leads on fr. primary

instinct to Himself as the only ultimate satisfact

cf. Psychology for Religious Workers by Dewar
and Hudson.

Man's Approach to God- Cognitive Try to know
God thru thot & meditation. Cf. Frost- "The Art of
Mental Prayer.

Affective asp. of knwl. of God (Feeling) Emot

Conative - Purpose & ative working twd goal

Selfknowledge 1) Valuable for we recogn bad tendencies in ourselves. 2) Selfk is road to underst of other people & to their underatdn of us. 3) Ign. of self is cause of breakdown, as result of depress. 4) Selfkn. is essence of humility & the foundat of virtues. Recog as we really are. Keeps us fr. dodging self-ddecept & reveals self to us. Bec. mirror. If we repress our faults, we salve our consc by rationalizat & projection (condemn our own faults in othr people.)

Tree gr. instincts- selfpreserving-race-preserving and herd-preserving. Sins are perversions of these fundamntl forces of personality.

Know self- Instincts --Disposition- Sentiments
Habits- Master sentiment .

Individual types

Psych. Types of Galen, Gr. physician in 2nd Cent. A.D.
4 varieties of Temperament (1) melancholy & gloomy,
(2) Choleric or excitable. (3) Sanguine or unreliable
(4) Phlegmatic or self-contained. - diff. that is due to diff. pred. of gall, bile, blood & phlegm in system.

Temperamental Types & study - (1) Introvert

(2) Extravert
in interests fasted objects, external things

Introvert subjectiv

Over the people acc. to 4 separate functions

(1) Sensation (2) Thinking (3) feeling (4) Intuition

Another division: (1) Temper (2) mood (3) Sentiment

(4) Habit

Sublimation - act of repressing & purifying in facing fr. baser qualities

Take ambition baptism with new spirit. Milton:

"write something which after time would not let die"

"Be ardent not chase self approval in to god"

Turned ego in you put it to unselfish use

Mather's "Lancashire Idylls" - Mrs. Fletcher

willig may lumber our unselfish act by some happenings

✓ The Unorganized Faces of Religion in Last Hundred
as Crasy - full of stark madmen & dead stuff & dummies
in day - Relig. organ. is q. prime passions & man. ethics arise
from prime passions must be carried to expression