

then there comes upon our world an awful fearful storm that sweeps away what man has built in his civilization. Only the gospel of Christ can rebuild a new world and point toward a new day of peace.

The greatest wage of the reaper awaits the day when he shall walk into his Master's presence and then there will come those blessed words, "Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

You live only one time. Live it right. Give yourself to Christ. Do His will. Do not seek your own way. Do not seek your own joys, pleasures, gains, and honors in this world. Follow Christ wherever He leads. Go to the Cross. Draw not back. Beyond the Cross there is the empty tomb. Beyond the empty tomb there is the ascending on high. There is eternal glory. God give us wisdom to so live for Christ that we may know the wages of the reaper.

BOLDNESS IN FOLLOWING JESUS

BAPTIST HOUR

June 16, 1957

Scripture: Acts 4:1-13

The scripture we have read is one of the most thrilling in the New Testament. Peter and John by the power of the risen Christ had healed a lame man lying at the beautiful gate of the temple. The authorities upon seeing the excitement of the crowd had arrested Peter and John and put them in prison until the next day. They were then brought out to face the very men who had brought Christ to the cross.

The magnificent reply of these humble Christian men to the leaders of their nation was so thrilling that the men who had brought the Saviour to the cross were impressed by the boldness of Peter and John and were made to marvel.

There is need today for unusual boldness in following Jesus. Vast portions of our world have already been brought under dominance of Communist tyranny with its atheistic ideology of materialism. Wherever this power has risen, Christ's people are placed in grave peril, and much boldness is needed in order to maintain an effective Christian testimony. We thank God that in many areas now behind the Iron Curtain churches continue to carry forward their work, even though some of their valiant leaders have long been imprisoned.

In meeting the march of this fearful system in the world there is need for boldness in Christian witness.

HEROIC SERVICE

In view of the widespread human distress that is found throughout the world and the lamentable spiritual darkness under which millions of people live, boldness is needed in our day that the gospel of Christ may be shared with all men everywhere. We need boldness in action and not simply words of approval. This is a generation calling for heroic service on a grand scale.

The lamentable apathy among many people who are nominal Christians calls us to boldness in Christian witness. America is known throughout the world as a land influenced by Christianity, and yet the crime rate in our country is a sorrow to every loyal American heart.

Why is there such a crime rate in America? Why is there the decay of morals and the weakening of the American home? Why is there lack of power in Christian witness? Why is there lip service in place of genuine devotion?

Surely there must be boldness among us so that in every area of life, one's social circle, the place of work, or the school, or home, or church there will be the kind of testimony our Lord wants today.

BAPTIST PIONEERS

Across the years there have been many glorious examples of boldness in follow-

ing Jesus. Christian history is filled with stories of heroism of those who have given all for Christ's sake. Thousands died as martyrs under pagan Rome. Many suffered imprisonment and death in the struggle for religious freedom.

Pioneers in Baptist life such as John Bunyan, Roger Williams, and ministers in Colonial America suffered imprisonment, abuse, and ridicule for their faith. The courage of those people in bearing their sufferings becomes our joy today, and the superlative freedom of religion we have in America, and the pearl of great price of separation of church and state grew out of the boldness of these men in serving their Lord.

In the missionary enterprise boldness has characterized many who have crossed the world to make known the name of the Saviour. Carey, Judson, Livingstone, and a host of early pioneers wrought gloriously. In the present day the same quality is exhibited. Many in recent years of war have endured long months in concentration camps. They have seen their possessions spoiled. They have been in danger of bombings. They have endured loneliness and privation. Many have been hungry or have suffered from malnutrition. Many have stayed in the places of danger when they could so readily have come away.

Our generation has written a valorous story of heroism in the missionary enterprise. Some of our fellow laborers lie sleeping in graves in distant lands where they gave their lives for Jesus, our Saviour.

This same courage is being shown by national Christians in many countries. As the gospel is taken to lands across the world, the same living Lord abides in the hearts of people of other races and nationalities as He does in our hearts, and the same courage comes to them as has been exhibited by many of God's servants in these days.

DEFINITE EXPRESSION

As the future unfolds, our boldness needs to take definite expression. For one thing, there must be boldness in personal Christian living. Not every Christian is to cross the world to go as a missionary.

Far more need to go than should have gone. Indeed, as Southern Baptists we need to double, treble, quadruple, and even more the missionary staff that we have in this generation. There is no task we have more urgently necessary than a great expansion of our witness on a world scale.

Even while this expansion takes place, however, the millions who make up our ranks will not go to the mission fields. They will remain at home, but in their remaining at home there must be the same boldness in vital Christian living as is demonstrated by those who cross the seas. The home must be made Christian. The places of business must be conducted in an atmosphere honoring to God. One Christian man or woman by the proper attitude in his place of business can change the whole place from an air of scorn of God to faith in Christ.

We must express our boldness through faith in Christ. We must be bold to confess His name before the world. There are those who limit themselves, and who hinder others because they are not bold to speak out what really lies in their hearts. If you trust Christ as your Saviour, you want to tell the world about it. Do not go through your university or your circle of friends or your own home with faith in Christ hidden down in your heart but unconfessed. Come out boldly before the world and let all men know that you can be counted on the side of Jesus Christ.

There must be boldness in prayer and stewardship. Across the land we need to have men and women arise in the churches who will say, "It is our purpose to see that our churches will be true to the Great Commission. We will share that which God enables us to give with the rest of the world. The money laid upon the Lord's altar will be used for the work of His Kingdom to the ends of the earth."

MONETARY MAXIMUM

More money is being given today in the churches than in the history of Christian work in America. Far too much of that money, however, remains in the life of the individual church and the immediate surrounding area. We must in this generation share a larger portion of what

God puts in our hands with the rest of the world. By helping others we will grow strong ourselves. By forgetting others we lose vital power necessary to Christian development.

There must be boldness to surrender to the will of Christ. Throughout our land there are young people and there are young ministers of the gospel, young doctors and nurses who realize full well that their lives could be of vast significance if dedicated to the will of Christ. Do you dare follow Christ? Do you dare accept

Him as your commanding officer? Do you dare say to your Lord, "I will plan my life without any reservation in thy hands and will do without question thy will?"

If Christian people are to fill the role in today's world that is necessary for us there must go forth a new surge of boldness in following Jesus Christ. May God help us so to yield ourselves to God that the power of the Holy Spirit may make us bold to do the will of Him who died on the cross.

THE NIGHT COMETH

BAPTIST HOUR

June 23, 1957

Scripture: John 9:4

The words of this scripture give us an awareness of the urgency which characterized the life of Jesus. There was no rush, flurry, tension, or frustration in that magnificent life, but there was the powerful drive of a majestic purpose moving on to tremendous destiny. Our Saviour said, "We must work the works of him that sent me while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work."

That same sense of urgency characterizes the followers of Jesus as we minister in his name throughout the world. We are aware that we are at work in the world with God. We are ambassadors of Christ calling mankind to turn unto him who alone can save from sin.

CHRIST LOVES ALL

The world in which we work is filled with people dear to the heart of God. Let us never overlook the fact that while millions of people throughout the earth differ from us in language, culture, racial and national backgrounds, they are just as dear to the heart of God as we are. Let us know that Jesus died on the cross for every one of them, for the rich man in his luxury yet poor in his soul, for the humble villager in his mud hut with thatched roof untouched by education or what is commonly called civilization. Christ died for all. He loves all. These are the people for whom he went to the cross.

The world in which we are at work is filled with tragic spiritual darkness, idolatry, ceremonial religion without any

knowledge of a living Christ, empty materialism leaving void and hungry the hearts of men, blinding and crippling superstitions that bring upon those who are held by them sorrows indescribable. Bitten-hearted fathers and mothers carry their loads not knowing of the love of Almighty God. Children and young people look out upon life with its confusion and perplexities not knowing of the Saviour who is able to bless.

People gather at the graves of the loved ones and know nothing of life eternal. This is a world in spiritual darkness. It is a world for which Christ died. It is a world in which we are his ambassadors.

This world is filled with heart break and misery. Even amid the bounty of America, there is misery. Poverty can be found among us here. Frustration in home life, sorrows which grow out of wrong living and straying from the pathways of righteousness characterize our own land.

But outside our country how different is human life. In the main it's like walling through a desert land, parched, barren, dry. The world is filled with poverty, illiteracy, homelessness, misery, sickness, hopelessness.

The world in which we live is in imminent peril. Over everything that man holds dear, there hovers a cloud of overwhelming tragedy which may burst upon his civilization. If the gospel of Jesus Christ is the truth, it is the truth for the whole wide world. If it is the power to