



Baptist hour messages



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“CHRISTIANITY VERSES COMMUNISM”

September 1, 1957

Scripture: Psalm I

Today a good per cent of the human race is following one of two Jews: Jesus Christ or Karl Marx. Both are totalitarians in that they demand absolute allegiance. To follow one of them means frustration, servitude, and death; the other means peace, purpose, and eternal life. Despite which of the two one is following, he needs to know what the other teaches, what he demands, and why multi-millions are voluntarily following him. The most potent sword in the hands of Communists is the ignorance on the part of non-Communists about their way of life.

Communism, contrary to popular opinion, is not necessarily a political party; it is not an economic theory or a grandiose philanthropy. Instead, it is a perverted religion, a religion that teaches its own stewardship, has its own altars, its bibles, its priests, and high commissars. Pleading for converts, it gives its invitations and keeps close scrutiny on its membership. It is the most successful missionizing campaign ever waged in history. A religion indeed! Its inordinate affection and super zeals are explained by no other means. Its bibles, *Das Kapital* and the *Communist Manifesto*, set forth line by line that infamous perversion of truth. Communism bases its functions on three major premises. Look at them in contrast to Christianity.

ATHEISM

First and foremost is the central platform of atheism. Karl Marx was an atheist

a long time before he was a Communist. His prize pupil, Lenin, spent most of his years trying to convince the world that Hegel was an atheist, too. They contend in simple rote: there is no God. Naturally, this must be the starting point, else all other planks in their platform would make no sense indeed. The moment one admits the presence of God in history, then there must follow providential guidance, retribution, judgment. If there is no God, then there cannot be any Word of God, and where a book of authority is missing, quite naturally man can supply one of his own choosing.

In 1917 there were only a few thousand who were willing to be named in this infamous camp; but by 1956 their number had risen to nine hundred million! What astounding growth! What fearful addition!

Hasn't man really wanted to believe that there is no God all the while? I think so. He does not want to tremble by the fear of judgment and hellfire in the future. Such disconcerts him, especially when he lives like hell on earth. And so to be told that his conscience will make a coward of him, that to rise above the taboos and priestcraft and do what comes naturally since in the end, man, like a common animal, merely returns to the dust from which he came, is what he wants. A good percentage of the human race obviously is content with this belief. Like Adam who wanted to be his own God, we leave our

Edens of splendor to wander in the waste lands of the Kremlin.

ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL

With God neatly done away with, man is the next casualty. If there is no significance in believing God, quite logically man has no spiritual reference. He is nothing more than matter in motion . . . an aggregate of atoms and molecules, flesh, blood, corpuscles, bone, nerve, and sinew. He has a brain but no mind! What man calls conscience is nothing but the leftovers of weak religion and the sooner man is rid of his weak feelings about it, the better. Does anything more need to be said to explain the heartless cruelty which has so characterized most of what the Communists have done?

They reason: if man is but an animal, why not treat him as such. Old women who no longer can produce for the slave state can be liquidated; undesirables can be herded into cattle cars and shipped to Siberia to spend their days in coal mines. When they die from malnutrition, neglect, and starvation . . . what does it matter? What is lost? The millions who have been butchered in China, Russia, and every satellite state give agonizing testimony to the fact that the human race has never known a more vicious lie than the contention of Karl Marx.

Now what did Jesus say about the worth of an individual . . . this other Jew? He came into a world dominated by the Romans, people who gave no status to womankind. If a baby were born anemic and sickly, it was generally discarded to die. If it were a girl, many times it was either sold to gypsies to be raised as a prostitute or left exposed to the elements so it would die. On this kind of stage Jesus stepped and said, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

To a woman at the well He spoke without fear or apology. The wonderful thing about Him is that human personality receives its highest dignity in Him. There is a place of worth for everyone who accepts His way as the only way. Man is

more than matter or molecules—he has a living soul, one wherein the germ of endless life is deposited. And instead of making His disciples die for His cause, He instead, died for them. What appalling contrast to those butchers of the Kremlin who, while issuing their pontifical edicts to their would-be followers, never jeopardize their own skin! But with that man Jesus it is a different story. A Syrophenician woman, an Ethiopian eunuch, a Roman centurion, an Armenian, Parthian, Roman, barbarian, Scythian, bond, free, male, female, black, white, Jew, Gentile—all came within the province of His love and sacrifice. All the grandiose clichés of Lenin, Stalin, Marx, Hobbs, and Kruschev can never remotely approach this universal dictum of Saviorhood.

ENDS VERSUS MEANS

At another major point are Christianity and Communism at opposite poles: the ends that determine the means. To the latter, any means that one chooses to employ to accomplish his ends are justified. Getting the job done is all that matters to them; therefore, use the big lie, intimidation, psychological torture, isolation, infiltration—any means so long as they result in a Godless state and the reign of their kind.

One of the little known incidents in history is at the same time among its greatest tragedies. That fast exodus from Russia during the Czarist terror when hundreds of thousands fled across Lake Balilik. There on the frozen ice surrounded by enemies among their own people, tens of thousands froze to death. Subsequent thawing saw countless others drown. What explanation or apology did the disciples of Communism have to offer for this brutality? None at all. To them the end justified such means.

Jesus made it pointedly clear that the means determine our ends—that the way we do a thing and the spirit in which it is done matter more than anything else. Motives were major issues to Him. He warned that Christians should never resort to evil in order that good might result. No rationalizing about white lies, or partial honesty because the way we live determines whether we live on with Him or

not. This Savior of mankind would rather have nothing done in His name than to see it done by means which contradict the spirit of love and devotion.

QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

It is at the point of qualification for membership that the contrast is designedly specific. To become a Communist no quality of character is needed. Any common criminal who parrots the party line can become a favored subject. Just look at the present calibre of demented souls who are running the Kremlin today. But on one point of requirement there is no doubt: one must be zealously sincere in his beliefs.

To become a Christian, card signing, reciting creeds, etc. are of secondary importance. The primary essential is that a person's nature be made over in the likeness of the One whom he is to follow. "You must be born again;" it is just that revolutionary. This new birth is absolutely essential because in no other way can one come to see the eternal values practiced by those who belong.

The two Kingdoms have completely opposite objectives. Whereas the way of Marx envisages a dream world, devoid of class, disease, poverty, and crime with heaven on earth for everyone. Christ told of a new order that has a bearing on this

earthly life here and now, but its real reign is not here but with God in eternity. This is to be accomplished by God's own initiative's working through people who are regenerated. The blissful state of totalitarians is to be accomplished by science, human sufficiency, sword, and hydrogen bombs if needs be.

Then arises the pressing question, "Which shall win?" Will the way of peaceful co-operation, kindness, and tolerance triumph over the more realistic down-to-earth methods of battalions? It always has! Where are the cannons of Napoleon? Or the flaming tars of Hannibal? Oh, friends, take heart — though we may yet have to endure another blood bath, still remains that positive certainty that God will assert Himself in victory over the forces of evil. Read again that ecstatic prophecy in Revelation, "...when the Kingdoms of this world shall have become the Kingdoms of our Lord and

His Christ and He shall reign forever and ever." In this fact we can be sure! This is the one fixed certainty of time and eternity.

So, which side are you on? Which of these two Jews are you claiming as Master? Oh, let me urge you in this benedictive moment to make Jesus your Savior and live your days for Him.

"HOW TO BELIEVE IN GOD AND HELL AT THE SAME TIME"

September 8, 1957

If I were Satan, I would spend most of my time convincing the human race that God would never let anybody go to hell ... because, you see, this sounds like a noble pursuit, elevating Satan above God in nature and concern. You mean in the middle of this enlightened century that one should hold on to something as unbelievable as hell? How can God be a Creator of love and permit His own creation

permanent separation. That is the issue before us today, and we must base the authoritative answer on God's own Word.

Are the Universalists correct in saying that all people will be saved in the end? Or other groups who create second and third opportunities for the soul's redemption after death? Whenever any sermon is preached on the subject of hell, it should