

BULLETIN SEMINARY EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

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VOLUME IV

SEPTEMBER 1955

NUMBER 9

IT'S ALMOST HERE

An industrial revolution is upon us. If we are able to get by the threats of war that are re-issued periodically, we will face an industrial revolution such as our minds have not contemplated. Already the gleams appear ahead. What a tremendous difference nuclear fission power will make! It will be labeled as progress, but such progress will not immediately appear. We will be found with unemployment, deployment, and technological displacement in such proportion as to stagger the mind. Leisure will become an increasing factor in each day, and the controls of government will doubtless become more evident. Such changes will probably affect training concepts; new interests in specialized studies will develop. The emergence of mathematics, already a tremendous factor for the field of contemporary sciences and technology, comes in such proportions as we have never expected. The import of these changes on our social structure will be noticeable. New faces will appear in isolated communities. Race will have to be thought out in the light of new community patterns. New social agencies will doubtless be born while the functions of present agencies may be altered. Outlets for various new kinds of fabrics, building materials, furniture, and commercial equipment will appear.

Changes in industry affect every area of society including the church. How can we anticipate the changes likely? How can we fit in? We have not caught up with the last revolution in our churches, so how can we be prepared for further sweeping reforms? Naturally, the churches cannot reconstruct their whole life with each change in society and economics. No one

would expect the church to be "Johnny-on-the-spot" with an adjusted philosophy for each decade. But in order to face up to our task we must know what is vital and what is secondary in importance. We must be prepared to fit the world with personalities that show awareness of environment. To do this we must become elastic in some things. No crystallized method can fit a changing world.

In order to be prepared we need to be in touch with those who are bringing about these changes. Wide reading will help the pastor and church leader, but we also need to listen to those who are in close contact with the sciences and social structures.

It is not necessary to know all about the science of nuclear fission to become acquainted with the place of the church in the changing order. But what the chain reaction of this science will mean in our social structure, what problems it will create, how it will affect the status of our present educational and promotional goals, surely must be confronted if our churches are to serve. All this will not come about immediately; but, and it cannot be stressed too much, it is in the process of happening NOW. To be sure it is a problem we have faced before, but it is growing more acute daily.

The danger most threatening to us is not new social problems, although these cannot be minimized, but the development of a sense of Utopia-attained should our economic problems be answered. False answers are not answers. Sin, selfishness, greed, nationalism, and racial struggle will

not be eliminated in these changes. We will continue to face a demand from the world to compromise our standards of righteousness and some of the "very elect" may be misled. It takes no prophet to see these things.

We face them today. They will be with us tomorrow. The world is preparing for change, are we? We need to develop the sense of knowing right and wrong in individual situations. We need to lay our patterns before us critically and keep them there until we change to proper relationships.

We will never accomplish these ends by continuous boasting of everything we think, say, or do. Boasting is the refuge of the blind and heedless drunk with the sense of self-centeredness. It will eventually catch up with us.

CRITICISM (continued)

Criticism without sufficient evidence gives evidence of improper training. Usually this critic calls names and makes identification which he cannot substantiate. Often he does not even know the meaning of the terms used. Quite often the terms "modernist," "skeptic," "liberal," or "evolutionist," are so used.

Hearsay evidence so used is not permitted in legal courts; it should not be permitted in the courts of conversation. Nothing so types a man as unreliable as to see him shown up publicly as one who passes judgment upon insufficient evidence. It is not a pretty sight to see one called down publicly. Some of our finest thinkers have been hurt by men whose quick, sharp, acid tongues got ahead of their investigation. Often a method of teaching has been mistaken as unbelief. Those who are so anxious to uncover facts are obligated to uncover facts in the light of their contexts--the full facts.

When does one possess sufficient evidence for criticism? When he knows that the evidence is complete and reliable, and when he stands in a position to competently adjudge this evidence; then one may have reason to criticize.

I heard five accusers disagree about the teachings of a professor recently. One said he did not believe in verbal inspiration. Four stated that they had heard him declare that he does believe this. Another stated that he watered down the atonement and two stated that he did not accept the virgin birth. In such a confusion of tongues, one would do well to refrain from the acceptance of any negative conclusion. He should withhold judgment. The individual in question is an individualist, but he surely is not a liberal or a modernist. It is unfair to take part of a statement as evidence.

The characteristic result of criticism based on insufficient evidence is a tendency to condemn outright. Analysis of the evidence often reveals its true character.

RECIPE FOR WORKERS

HARD WORK--It is the best investment one can make.
STUDY--Knowledge enables anyone to work more intelligently and effectively.
HAVE INITIATIVE--Ruts often deepen into graves.
LOVE YOUR WORK--Then you will find pleasure in mastering it.
BE EXACT--Slipshod methods bring slipshod results.
CULTIVATE PERSONALITY--Personality is to an individual what perfume is to a flower.
HELP AND SHARE WITH OTHERS--The real tests of greatness is sharing with others.
BE DEMOCRATIC--Unless you feel right toward your fellow men, you can never be a successful leader.
HAVE THE SPIRIT OF CONQUEST--This spirit overcomes all difficulties.
FINALLY--In all things do your best. Those who have done less than their best have done nothing.

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Statistical Report: Extension students, 2,066; correspondence students, 1,503.

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, how some people must LOVE the church!