

I

Introduction

Religion, it seems to me can be defined as the effort to find the purpose in the universe and to relate ^{one} ~~oneself~~ ^{yes} to this purpose. For some, this purpose seems to be nothing more than eat, drink, and be merry, for others it is wealth, satisfaction, knowledge and other endeavors while for a few it ~~is~~ is the effort to carry out the order of a higher Law. It seems to me that certain things cannot be ignored in our choosing a personal religion. From history we can see the results that various beliefs have made. From observation and common sense we can see the results that ~~existing~~ ^{in belief} beliefs will ~~result in~~ produce.

One common error which all us made to some extent is a belief in the fallacy of eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we may die. History has yet to show an instance where this philosophy has made any lasting contribution to ^{man's} ~~our~~ betterment. He can look around us and see the often disastrous results from the thoughtless quest of pleasure.

II

There is another folly.
Another error is commonly ~~that is commonly made~~
~~is~~ ~~that~~ ~~has~~ ~~cropping up with disastrous~~
effects. It is the effort of some individuals
to make and impose on others, laws of their
own that are in direct conflict with the moral
law. Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin and innumerable
others have all tried or are trying this
superman philosophy and they all have gone
~~and are going~~ down on history's black list of
failures.

At the beginning of this century there was a
line of thought which won more and more people.
We humans, through the labors of what we
call science, had become pretty self sufficient.
Time, space, and most of man's material needs
had been conquered. All that was needed to make
this earth a paradise was more knowledge, more
machines, and a little better distribution of
the resulting products. Two and a half world
wars have knocked this idea into a cocked
hat for most people.

From these ^{and many other} lessons of history it seems
we should be able to draw some conclusions.

III

that will aid us in ^{the} crossing of our ~~plan~~ plan
for life or ~~religion~~ as it is commonly called
our religion. It is obvious ~~that~~ ^{almost} to any truly
thoughtful person that there is a plan and
purpose for our universe and world ^{& ourselves}. But what
kind of plan is it? Some of the plan can be
discerned from the experience of history. There
is a law that is not our own that upholds
the frail teachings of a Galilean that died
a criminal's death while the world wide ~~as~~
military power that put him to death is just
a faint page in dead history. This is the
law that men ^{have} discovered through the centuries
and have left in writings and commandments,
ten of which we should know so well.

There is something else that we can easily see.
When men begin to look unto themselves or say
thing else but some Higher Power for their
guidance they immediately get in trouble. This
is what Paul was talking about when
he said "Professing themselves to be wise they
became fools." Modern scholars of the ^{human} mind
are saying the same thing in different words.

IV

In all of the ^{higher} religions ~~that have~~ ^{meant} ~~anything to our human race~~ ^{we have many} ~~basic and common~~ there is a common theme. We are created by and responsible to God who ^{has} made us brothers ^{to} and responsible for all other men. By fellowship with and obedience to ~~this~~ God we are fulfilling our destiny. Fortunately for all who have access to the Christian teaching we have the example of a person who has lived ~~the most~~ a life that is perfectly in accord with the Divine Plan. ^{From} ~~In~~ this one life we can ~~for~~ all ^{own} get a plan for ours. From this one life we find the answers to all of life's questions. Maybe the answers won't satisfy many ~~many~~ of our petty questions but experience has shown that ^{more than} enough is given to enable us to continue ^{with} life's duties. In this ~~losing~~ business of religion

~~In our planning for our life~~

^{you} we can only go so far without action just as in learning to drive a car ^{you} ~~one~~ can only go so far without getting in driving. He can discuss ^{our} life's ~~life's~~ plans to great lengths but it is

not until we get out and live ~~by~~ a religion that we actually begin to learn. We will never know the meaning of do unto - others or fellowship with Christ until we have experienced them.

There are two very important ~~no~~ cautions to consider in connection with our religion. The first is the danger of letting our religion become ~~and~~ an end in itself. Some of us want to separate it and make it life's sole meaning instead of letting it give life its true meaning.

The most real danger is ^{one} ~~that~~ of which ^{most} of us are too familiar. We accept a religion and then promptly forget it, going on the way we please unless it is not too inconvenient to let our actions coincide with our professed beliefs.

If we make a conscientious selection ^{and practice} of our religion we can be sure that life will have the meaning God intends it too and once this life is over we are driven to conclude that the Power which ~~started~~ created ~~the~~ such a magnificent plan for life will not end it without the completion that is not possible on earth.

Tonight has been designated students' night in our church. Even though we should be students ~~to~~ all our lives, we usually think of a student as being at the beginning of a life. It is ^{at this} time that ~~many~~ ^{are faced} of life's most important questions. Who are we, why are we here what are we going to do. These are questions which religion is concerned with.