

135-195
Prayer
Choir
L-4-0
Sermon
288-46

AM. 1/28/34/W.V. First Church.

Our Crucial Problem Matt. 6:33.

Our lives are divided into two factors:

1. The means by which we live.
2. The ends for which we live.

The type of life that we finally develop is determined by the way we handle these two factors. In fact a whole generation's life is determined, as to type, by the way these factors are handled.

The one thing that illustrates the difference of our age over any other is our mastery ^{or lack of mastery} over the scientific means of life. From steam to vibrations of ether we have harnessed nature as our humble servant. So that the means by which we live are best ever.

But when we turn from means by which we live to the ends for which we live, are we on a correspondingly higher level than our fathers?

So here is our crucial problem" How we use or handle the means by which we live and the ends for which we live.

Two observations:

1. Athens in the Periclean Age. She developed and preserved a culture that has been a treasure to the Western world ever since. The means by which they lived were crude. But when we think of things for which they lived Athens moves up into a class that may be our modern cities will not soon achieve.*
2. The little band of disciples. The means by which they lived were crude indeed. Mule for travel, one room house, and poverty stricken condition of life. But when we think of the ends for which they lived, oh my soul.

How do we use our improved means? Henry David Thoreau (thō-rō) had an expression "Improved means to an un-improved end." Is this not what is happening to us in many things? When I quote from a man it due you that I tell you something of the man. Thoreau was not an ideal

man. But from the un ideal may come some good things or else all of us would be discouraged. He graduated at Harvard at age of twenty. Never married, lived in the woods, studied nature, cared nothing for social life, and did not believe in work. He lectured some and wrote some. On one lecture tour his admirers attempted a banquet for him. He did not show up. He had heard of a rare plant on the bank of the lake and had gone to get it. When the train came he showed up with his plant. He wrote several books. One was "A Week On The Concord." He had 1000 copies printed. 800 of the books were returned as unsalable. He often remarked that he had private library of 800 volumes. But he said a good thing. "Improved means to an unimproved end."

When the first cable was laid across the Atlantic he remarked that about the first thing it would be used for would be to tell us that some princess had the whooping cough.

Observations:

1. Voliva of Zion City uses the radio to broadcast to the world that the world is flat.
2. The movie is a marvelous invention and many times beautifully used, but it is also used as commercialized institution pouring just any thing into the minds of millions of people that attend.
3. The war-use of improved means.

We have been absorbed in multiplying MEANS but that second matter is crowding itself upon us as the crux of the whole matter. Unless we can re-establish the spiritual ends of living in personal character and social justice our nation yes our world will destroy itself with its own improved implements. *A Canadian told me that week about French men who were making guns with which they were*
to hold
When some one says that the supreme interest of our time is science and not religion he is likely right because the dominant interest of our time has been the provision of more means on which to live and that comes in the realm of science. But science can not supply the ends of life. That is left for religion to do. What is a generation profited if it gains the whole world of means by which to live and lose its own soul?

or the ends for which to live?"

We can not dodge that question. On every road we find it and every where we look we see it. From many voices we hear it.

Now before we get through answering that question we are going to have a revival of the spiritual life. It must come and come it will because God still lives.

There are objectors who will protest this view.

I. "There will be no revival because people are too well satisfied with the improved means of living." That is too well satisfied with the joy of these things.

But mind you the people who are the best equipped with the means on which to live are not always the happiest people. A man many a time buys a hell thinking he is buying a home.

But if you found a man who had found his work and was:

- a. Doing some thing useful
- b. ~~dealing~~ dealing with his shadow
- c. Lighting the dark places of earth like a lantern you would know he was happy.

2. Another says we will not have a revival of the spiritual because materialism is in the saddle. But the triumphs of materialism have been self destructive. It carries one into a senseless world. Throw up a million cards with a letter on each and see if they fall together in to words like these "God is love."

3. Another ventures to say that we will not have the revival of the spiritual because of the moral condition. Well we answer, yes look at it. There is always a bad moral condition after a war and one that it takes years to undo. Some think that war should sober people up.

III. A mother had three sons at the front.

Got the news same day that all were dead. I guess that was sobering.

The prince of Wales, visiting a hospital for wounded soldiers. There were six with faces shot off and management did not

want him to see them. He looked at five but management tried to keep him from sixth with only a bit of his brow left. The price saw him and white as a sheet he bowed and kissed what of the brow was left. That should be sobering. But war is also demoralizing.

We are going to come out of it. If you say it is going from bad to worse then we answer that there are signs of improvement. The pendulum swings. Cartoon. A flapperish mother with not enough clothes on to wad a shotgun. The decent daughter standing by saying "Mother when will you stop trying to be modern? I had rather risk some of the young people to day than some of the older ones who have the war psychology.

It is that post war psychology that has re-emphasized putting on worldly amusements in the name of charity. Now how much better it would have been for some person who is in love with crippled children to have started a movement to have in the auditorium of every city next Tuesday night a program of religious and patriotic music at which time the citizens of the U.S.A. would have been asked to go and drop in an offering for the crippled children in honor of the birth day of our great president. -Revival

A few human beings are going to be helped in their bodies by the money made in dancing next Tuesday--Means by which we live--But only the judgement will reveal how many thousands of souls will eventually drop in to hell because of a nation wide night of dancing.

I am anxious for the post war thinking to be supplanted by that splendid youth psychology demonstrated in the youth movement of this country against alcohol. Jesus did not say anything about automobiles, airoplanes etc. but he said much about the ends of life. The deepest hell that some of us will fall into is to have every thing to live with but have nothing to live for.

Let me repeat that we have two factors in life Means with which we live AND the ends for which we live. And it is how we handle these factors that determines our characters. Text..quote.

what are the ends for which we should live?

1. Clean personal life

2. A Congenial family life

3. The legend that is within us to be projected into three circles;

H O M E C - O m m u n i t y W O R L D

4. Heavenly home

