

# The Oregon Statesman

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## WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

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Willard S. Sperry is the author of one of the recent books on religious subjects printed by the Yale University Press, and entitled "The Disciplines of Liberty." The book starts with a thoroughgoing attempt to answer the question, "What is a Christian?" At a time when the word Christian is used so loosely that a poem has been published in praise of Eugene Debs as "The Last Christian," there is evidently need of a new definition of the title which means so much to millions of individuals and the world. Mr. Sperry brushes aside all doctrinaire classifications and declares:

"Our nearest and simplest answers to the question might always well be cast in the more informal and less logical pattern of Jesus' teaching. Grant at Appomattox Court House giving back to Lee his sword and to the Southern Cavalrymen their horses for the farms of the South, Lincoln tempering military justice by the everlasting mercy, John Hay returning the Boxer indemnity to China, Father Damien among the lepers of Molokai. Tolstoi writing "Where Love is There God is Also," Francis Thompson singing "The Kingdom of Heaven is Within You," Edith Cavell standing in eternal granite in Trafalgar Square while the captains and the kings depart—"What is Christianity?" All that is Christianity.

"Wherever a man may stand in the modern world, in whatever caste, class, or race it matters not, if he sets his face resolutely toward the Christ ideal for human character and human society and begins to move in that direction, he has a valid claim upon the term 'Christian' as his most adequate form of self-designation."

While this is an improvement on the old idea that about all that was necessary to make one a Christian was to believe on Christ, still it falls short of the New Testament standard. Those who believe the Bible certainly cannot read it much if they do not understand that one cannot be a Christian by simply declaring that he is one, nor by only desiring to be one. He cannot be a follower of Christ simply by concurring with others who profess to be His followers but who come just as far from being so as he does himself, nor by persuading himself that he has the belief and faith which have saved him when he has nothing more than self-deception.

It is recorded that Christ said: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

We cannot, of course, follow Him merely in loud and wordy professions. We can only follow in life and deed. In the light of His words and experience, it would seem clear that the principles which He exemplified are the principles that every man must make a part of himself by the same method that Jesus pursued. He must first be baptized by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Enough of this spirit must rest with him to start into action the germ of divinity within him. His real spiritual work then will begin in the wilderness of his own nature. Here he is to wrestle with and overcome Satan within himself. That is, he must gain the mastery over his appetites, his selfishness and worldly ambitions, and be willing to forsake the sinful, worldly life with its gross pleasures, its emoluments, its sufferings and disappointments, and to live for God and His kingdom.

Is not this the true cross that we must "take up?" Is not this the overcoming of Satan that the Bible speaks of? May not these evil and natural propensities of ours be the only Satan we shall ever find? When by this action our bodies and hearts have become pure enough and our spiritual natures strong and active enough, may we not then expect to come out of this wilderness in the power of the spirit, showing those fruits and works of the spirit so often enumerated in the Bible? Until then are we followers of Christ? Are we Christians?

Upon this point the Bible could not be plainer. Here are some of its words:

"He that saith I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him."

"Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not; whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him. Little children, let no man deceive you; he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil."

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him, and he cannot commit sin because he is born of God."

"Whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."

"For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world."

"This I say then, walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh."

"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

"Verily, verily, I say unto you he that believeth in me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do."

After reading these passages can it be necessary to tell any man who professes to believe the Bible that to be a Christian one must have overcome his natural, fleshy nature; that he must be so fully under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that he will do no sin; and that no matter what he professes or thinks he is, his faith is to be judged by his life and works; indeed, that it is impossible for him to have a true faith without this holy life and its works. "By works is faith made perfect."

Looked at in the light of the Scripture, what a "high calling and election" has one who has resolved to become a Christian—who has determined that he will bring his own life so into harmony with God's, with Christ's, that he shall be a true follower of the living Christ! Should we degrade Christ and belittle Christianity by announcing ourselves as Christians while we are yet under the domination of the natural man? Should we not rather keep on praying for strength and struggling with ourselves until we can go forth the spirit of Christ that it will not be necessary for us to profess to be Christians, for our life and works will proclaim this more eloquently than any words?

We are now at peace with the world. The next thing is to bring order, prosperity and happiness within our borders. Let every man do his share in the work.

A call has been issued by some of the churches recommending the observance of November 6 as a special day of prayer in all of the churches. The Sunday is the next before the gathering of the international conference on armament limitation.

With the army of occupation cut down from 10,000 to 5000, the watch on the Rhine will at any rate be less expensive either to Germany or to this country. No doubt those who remain will be those who are enjoying themselves thoroughly.

Stephane Lauzanne declares that France is going to the conference with confidence "because she knows that in Washington she will find everything in the light and in the open." Does this mean that at the conference France will be arrayed on the side of publicity?

Mrs. Raymond Robins of Chicago has asked the women of the country to organize in favor of disarmament. If the women agree to disarm there will be all kinds of peace and good cheer in this rummy old world. But they are likely to insist on the rolling pin. —Los Angeles Times.

Every man has his physical counterfeit. It is a theory believed by many people, although there may be no scientific basis for it, in spite of the many situations it has provided for novelists and dramatists. But did anybody ever hear of a female double? Perhaps they are too beautiful to be counterfeited.

Herbert Hoover has sold his interest in the Washington Herald to his associates. That newspaper is well established and clean, but it was the wish of Mr. Hoover that no publication of any kind should be considered in the light of his "organ." He has had nothing to do with its editorial policy, even by suggestion; but the public could not be expected to know this.

Senate delays are attributed by a Washington observer largely to the poor health of the committee chairmen, and he notes that the ages of all the chairmen of important committees average more than 70. A system of honorary chairmanships for the veterans and active chairmanships for the younger men is naturally suggested by the situation. Old men for council, young men for action—with many exceptions, of course, on both sides of the comma.

### THE LADY COP

There are 30 women on the police force in Chicago. The lady cop appears to be an established institution in many cities. In most cases she is assigned to special service. Her mission is to prevent crime rather than apprehend the criminal. She is also drawn upon for first aid. Women appear to have a well-defined place in the department. The only objection is to using them for bait to ensnare moral delinquents. There seems to be something repulsive to that. No one likes the idea of encouraging crime for the purpose of catching the criminal.

### BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

The world would not amount to much if there had not been men throughout the ages of time who believed in themselves. Some were dreamers; some were egotists; many fell short of their great ambitions; some stumbled upon success; but in all cases their faith in themselves was boundless.

The world seldom takes a man at his true worth until about the time his tombstone gets tottery.

People will never think much of a man who does not honestly and justly think a great deal of himself. The best salesman in the world is he who believes in his own goods and knows how to make the other fellow think the same way. All success in life is more or less a matter of salesmanship, but the finest salesman who ever lived will not succeed if he is selling false goods. Make yourself, first of all, worthy of success. Be thorough.

### FUTURE DATES

November 16, Wednesday—Annual Willamette university cross-country race. October 30, Sunday—Laying cornerstone of new Salem hospital. November 5, Saturday—Football, Willamette vs. Pacific university. November 5, Saturday—Semi-annual meeting of Marion county Parent-Teacher association. High school. November 8, Tuesday—Examinations of National Guardsmen for entrance to West Point, Salem Armory. November 8, Tuesday—Special election by Polk county on \$70,000 road tax levy. November 8, Tuesday—Admiral Mayo to address Kiwanis Club. November 21, 22 and 23—Marion county Teachers Institute. November 4, Sunday—Elks Memorial service, Grand Theater.

and efficient. Be clean in your life and honorable in your dealings. Be willing to give full value for what you receive and, with this equipment, go forth and win.

The world is not going to knock down your front door and drag you forth unwillingly to its great rewards. There are some very nice stories in junior publications about opportunity sucking up behind a man unexpectedly.

But the men who have been overwhelmingly surprised by a kind and indulgent fate are few. Modesty is a virtue with a low batting average.

Do not underestimate your own ability, your own worth and your own rights. Herein lies the secret of many a man's success. —Thrifty Magazine.

### DODGING RESPONSIBILITY

Judge Lindsey says that the rich are ignoring the responsibility they owe to society. They ask the preservation of the law for themselves. Yet they are stocking up on booze and drinking a lot of stuff that is inaccessible to the poor—and they are doing it in defiance of the law. Instead of setting an example of respect for the law they are flagrantly and openly violating it. Judge Lindsey does not think a whole lot of the prohibition amendment, but he does insist upon its iron-clad and implacable enforcement. He contends that it should never be admitted that the United States can adopt a law that it cannot enforce.

### BIBLE READING.

There is no excuse for the popular ignorance of the Bible which Dr. Powell Norton described before a Baptist conference. Many organizations are at work to publish the Bible cheaply and circulate it widely.

The organization of traveling men, known as the Gideons, puts it in hotel rooms. The Pocket New Testament league was very active during the war and is busier than ever today. At Harvard the Bible and Shakespeare have been made compulsory subjects of study.

But children in school know as little of the Bible as they know of current events. In their minds it is associated with the repressive gloom of the Puritan Sabbath, with all that is solemn and severe.

The Bible needs to be emancipated from association with all that is dry and dull and made to seem readable and companionable. Familiarity with the text is almost indispensable to skill in the use of our tongue, whether in writing or in speech. It needs to be made plain to some who have chiefly a vivacious knowledge of its contents that it is a volume to read as well as to reread.—Philadelphia Ledger.

### MY SUPPLICATION

Upon the threshold of the day My footsteps pause, the while I pray Thy pardon for the wrong I wrought Yesterday in deed or thought.

In all my care and toil today Send forth Thy light upon my way. Give faith to see, whate'er betide, My Elder Brother walks beside.

Oh, grant me love that I may be A true reflection, Lord, of Thee, And help this troubled world to find What God so loved—SO LOVED—mankind.

Then give me grace, dear Lord, I ask, So well to do my given task That some day Thou wilt bid me come Into Thy joy and hear: "Well done." Marian MacLean Finney.

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## OIL COMPANY IS BEING AUDITED

### Handley Expects Report on Texas-Nortland Company in 10 Days

Within 10 days T. B. Handley, state corporation commissioner, expects to receive a complete report covering the audit of the books of the Portland-Texas Oil company, whose permit to sell stock has temporarily been suspended. The suspension, according to Mr. Handley, was with the understanding that if the audit shows a satisfactory condition a reinstatement of the permit will be considered.

The company was incorporated in June 1920, and on December 10, 1920, it made application to sell stock. The application was sworn to by A. M. Cannon, treasurer; T. H. Beverly, assistant secretary; Grant Phegley, Ralph A. Coan and Herbert Gordon, the three latter members of the directorate.

These officials represented the assets of the concern to be \$374,300, liabilities \$225,000 and net worth \$149,300. Also they swore

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that the company was then producing crude oil in sufficient quantity to pay a dividend and that in four months a dividend of 10 per cent had been paid.

A permit was issued by the corporation department allowing the company to sell \$50,000 worth of stock, \$25,000 for the purpose of completing payments on property and the remainder to buy and operate additional acreage. The permit, says Mr. Handley, was granted on condition that the stock be sold to a limited number of persons and confined to present stockholders and their friends who were familiar with the company's purposes and operations.

This was all that was done by the corporation department until June of this year when it appeared that the management of A. M. Cannon was not satisfactory, and an understanding was reached that there would be a reorganiza-

tion. With the approval of the state corporation department Fred Gronert was put in charge of the company's offices in charge of an audit, and it is a complete report on this audit that is expected in the next few days. At the same time the permit to sell stock was cancelled with the understanding that if the audit proved satisfactory a reinstatement of the permit would be considered by the corporation department.

"As far as I know," said Mr. Handley, "the company's sales of stock have not been made to the general public, but have been made to prominent business men of Portland."

The commissioner has a list of these business men's names on file.

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