

The Oregon Statesman

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CHRISTIANITY—WHAT IS IT?

(Copyrighted by the San Jose Mercury)

The answer to this great question has often been attempted by theologians of all sorts and sectarians have quarreled and fought over it. Still the world does not seem to be saved from its sins; and the principles revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus are a long way from full realization in the lives of most of His followers, and are still entirely foreign to the great mass of humanity.

Is Christianity merely a matter of intellectual belief, or is it something more? Is it a formal adherence to a certain sect and a more or less conscientious conformity to its requirements, or is it something above and larger than any sect or denomination, or all of them combined? Is it a belief in a reality of the truths recorded in the New Testament and an acceptance of Christ as there revealed as one's personal Savior and leader? Or is it something outside of, above and beyond intellectual belief or conception, outward form, profession or observance?

Do not the life and teachings of Jesus sufficiently define Christianity? Even this is not an adequate and sufficient definition. A suffering and sin-oppressed world is unconsciously waiting for some one to show it that Christianity is a practical code of living ethics, and not a belief in something that is passed, or any other intellectual process whatever; that it is nothing less than the spirit of Christ dominating the individual life, bringing something of His power, love and helpfulness. And this needs to be shown, not by words and preaching alone, but by demonstrations in human lives. Men need to see Christians always swift to do justice and to follow the right in their intercourse with their fellows without regard to the sheriff or the decrees of the courts. When the world sees those of us who have taken the name of Christ striving constantly and honestly to live the Golden Rule, it will not need to ask what Christianity is. Every professed follower if His will be a walking definition known and read by all men.

Most of us do not need to be told that, except on Sunday and when the influence of the church service or other religious observance is upon us, our Christianity rests very lightly upon us. We yield to many of the temptations that beset our non-Christian neighbors. We have much the same ambitions and use very much the same methods to gratify them—many of them anything but Christian. We do not much regard the welfare, rights and interests of others when these things stand in the way of the attainment of our own cherished ambitions and desires. If every one of us would hold an honest examination of himself, he would be obliged to admit all this to be true.

And that it is true is what is the matter with the world right now. Because it is true we have steel strikes and coal strikes and general unrest; we are threatened with industrial prostration, with its accompanying inconvenience, loss and suffering. If you chide the ordinary man because he is seeking his own selfish ends without much, if any, regard to the interests, welfare, and happiness of others; if you charge him with a willingness to bring cold and hunger and suffering to helpless and innocent women and children in order to accom-

plish his own selfish purposes, he will justify his lack of the Christian spirit by frankly declaring that all other men, no matter what they profess or pretend, are in fact actuated by the same motives that he is. Unfortunately, this is so generally true that he is almost justified in believing it to be universally true.

Men who have seen a higher light, who have even an intellectual conception of something better than the selfishness, sordidness, greed and worldliness that now dominate the earth have a great responsibility that as yet most of them have not realized. They must make this light in them not only more completely dominate their own lives and conduct, but they must make it shine for other men. We Christians must take our religion more seriously—very much more seriously. God will surely hold us accountable for the use we make of the light he has given us. The promises we have made to Him and the solemn covenants we have made with Him will not be treated as light and trivial matters by Him, even if we do so treat them. The sin of omission, a failure to live the truth as we know it, is often the greatest sin in the world.

By this time Christians should have learned that the world is not to be saved—transformed into disciples of Christ by words. It can only be done by men and women breathing, living, acting the very spirit of Christ. Perpetual peace, industrial and every other kind, can only be made dominant in the world by living epistles of His spiritual truth, power and love.

But Christianity is something more even than the highest code of ethics ever given to the earth. It can only be perfectly defined by transformed, spiritual human lives; by men and women who have given up the old law, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," for the new law which He gave unto us, "Do good for evil." No matter how many definitions of Christianity are formulated in words, the great mass of mankind will never much understand them until their meaning is made plain by real flesh and blood men, who have overcome the world—who have "been born again," as He says we must be.

Neither will this great mass of humanity be turned from the path of sin in which most of them are walking until some regenerated man or woman throws the mantle of charity over their frailties and loves them in spite of their faults; until some real disciple of Christ, blessed with God's own spiritual power, instead of harshly threatening them with hell fire, gently takes them by the hand and gives them the desire, the courage and the strength to walk in the upward way.

(Copyrighted 1922)

The ballots are being printed. Election day is coming on apace.

One thing, public opinion in America is never tongue-tied.

The Salem streets made a very fine and complete automobile show yesterday.

The final question shall be not, How much have you? but, How much have you gone?

Think of what might happen if someone invented an amplifier to be attached to the still, small voice of conscience.

The quest for a big prune is of vastly more importance to the Salem district than the success or defeat of any candidate for office.

TWENTY CHURCHES IN ONE

More than twenty Protestant denominations are building a church common at Jackson Heights, L. L. The building, which will cost \$150,000, will seat 600 people and will have a modern graded Sunday school, a well equipped gymnasium and

other conveniences required in up to date church structures. It is doubtful if so many different denominations have ever before arranged to meet under one roof. —Pathfinder.

WHAT OF MOUNT ARARAT?

A "wet" champion combats the notion that strong drinks brutalize men by asserting that since the deluge brute beasts have drunk nothing but water. But in the days of the flood the only "dry" spot on earth was Mount Ararat, and it saved the race. —Los Angeles Times.

FATE OF THE NEW MINISTER

The neighbors go to hear the new minister, not to worship God, not to hear the Bible read and explained, not to join in the

FUTURE DATES

October 17, Tuesday—Cyrus, Yan Gordon, Prima Donna Mezzo contralto, in concert at armory. October 19, Thursday—Junior Guild Dance at armory. October 28 and 29, Saturday and Sunday—County Christian endeavor convention at Pratum. November 7, Tuesday—General election. November 30, Thursday—Thanksgiving day. December 2, Saturday—Bazaar, St. Paul's Church, 560 Chemeketa.

prayer and praise. Naturally, if they go for the sermon they center their thought on the one outstanding person who for an hour is the man in the pulpit, returning home to discuss and criticize what he says and does. God is there, but they know it not. —Francis E. Clark in Yale Review.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

The building boom persists—

And yet a new man in Salem looked all day yesterday for a vacant house, and did not find one.

The big apartment house proposition looks like a go. It will be handy to the capitol.

If the Oregon walnut growers again get two cents a pound more for their product than the California growers, the thing will about be established as a permanent rule.

Governor-General Byng of Canada is the owner of the only buffalo hide golf bag in existence. Cree Indians presented it to him on a recent tour.

Autosuggestion as the wife understands it: "Honey, I believe we should have a car."

The new building for the old people's home, out on Center street, is getting on well towards

completion. It will be a credit to that part of the city, and to the hearts of the people who are responsible for it.

A Salem business man says there were 2000 cars parked on the down town streets of Salem yesterday afternoon. Looked like a million, and there would have been nearer that number if the parking space had not run out.

Extension of Time is Allowed Joseph Woerndle

Chief Justice Burnett of the supreme court yesterday issued an order granting a 10-day extension of time in which Joseph Woerndle, Portland attorney, must file an answer to the complaint in disbarment brought against him by the grievance committee of the

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

SUNDAY CHICKEN DINNER with dessert, 45c at the Acme.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR rent, Telephone 634 J.

I HAVE SOME VERY FINE Duroc pigs just weaned, for sale; also nice shoats. Will give an especially good value in sows with pigs if taken at once. John H. Scott, Phone 254 or 622.

MEN WANTED—NEW CONSTRUCTION at papermill, Monday, 1 p. m.

FOR RENT—ONE NICELY FURNISHED room with kitchenette. Corner Mill and High. Ivan G. Martin, Phone 759.

State Bar association and the court refused to dismiss the case on demurrer and said that Woerndle's might have until October 25 to file an answer if he desired. This is extended to November 6. Disloyalty to the United States is charged against Woerndle.

Under U. S. Government Supervision



The Only Reason

lots of people do not have a savings account is because they do not stop to think.

Suppose you stop a moment right now and think—think hard.

Can you think of one single good reason why you should not have a Savings Account at this bank?

Then why not act?

Open Your Savings Account Today

United States National Bank
"The Bank That Service Built"
Member Federal Reserve System

JUST ARRIVED BY EXPRESS

- New Patent Leather High Shoes French Heels \$8.00
- New Patent Leather Pumps French Heels \$8.00
- New Kid Cuban Heel Pumps All Sizes \$7.00
- New Arch Preserver Oxfords Brown and Black \$9.00
- New Florsheim Shoes, Brown Square Toes \$10.00
- New Children's Shoes, Grey Kid Tops, All Sizes \$3.00
- New Stock Ball Band Rubber Boots \$5.00 \$7.00
- New Bergman Packs, the Best 16-Inch Shoe Made \$15.00
- New Witch Elk Sport Boots, 16-Inch \$15.00

The Largest Stock of Standard Made Shoes In Oregon Outside of Portland. Come In and Try a Pair. We Guarantee Everything We Sell.

REPAIRS
The best repair work in the city. We have put in all new machinery and have the best man in the city. Try us once. If it is not the best repair work you ever had we will not ask another chance

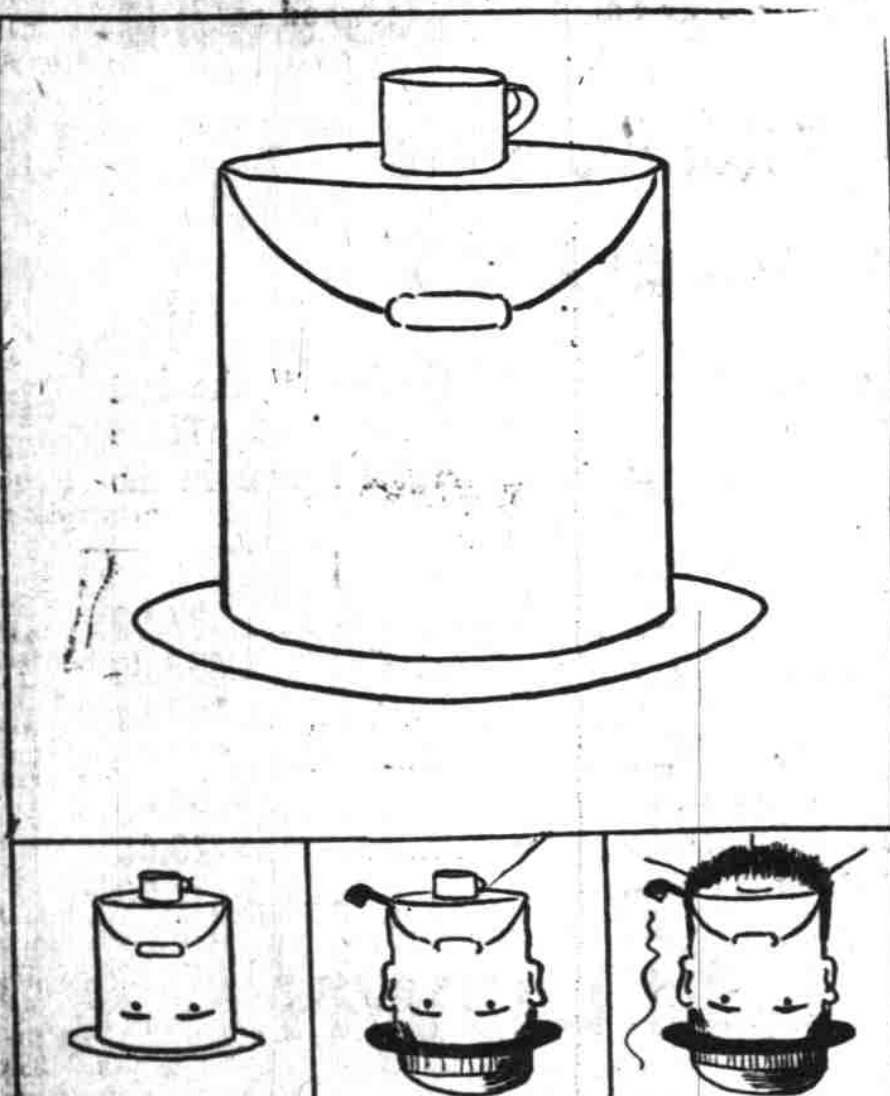


DR. WILLIAMS
Dr. Williams, expert foot specialist. Consultation free. Consult him about your feet. He removes corns, treats bunions and fits arch supports. All foot troubles scientifically treated.

The Junior Statesman

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Lessons in Trick Cartooning



The Dinner Pail Irishman

(Complete the big drawing by adding, one by one, the various lines, shown in the series of small key pictures below.)

THE SHORT STORY, JR.

THE GOLDEN GRASS

"If wishes were horses," teased Ted, "you'd be a fine rider all right."

"Well," retorted Marie, "as long as I can never do anything but wish, I guess it doesn't do any harm."

a girl who got into trouble by wishing, and she never tried it again, either."

Nora always "knew" more strange people. "She was an Irish girl, wasn't she?" asked Ted with a little wink at Marie.

"Sure she was. They were just medium well off folks, with enough to keep them fairly comfortable. There were Sheila and her little sister and her father and mother—and the cow. Sheila's uncle had given her the cow for a birthday present, and she was that fond of it! Every day she took it out to the pasture and every day she brought it back. Her little sister, who was not very strong, was growing round and rosy on the fresh milk, and Sheila just worshipped her. That made her fonder than ever of the cow.

"Now Sheila had one fault that was hard on her family. Every other sentence she used was 'I wish.' She never churned the milk without wishing she had a patent churn. She never took a stitch without wishing she had a sewing machine. She never put on her clothes without wishing she had a silk dress. She wasn't what you'd call discontented, and she was never cross, but the wishing habit was strong with her.

"One day out in the pasture she sat down to rest while the cow was grazing. "You're such a dear," Sheila said fondly. "I just wish you had a marble stable and the grass in the pasture was pure gold." Well, sir, she didn't know it, but the stone she was sitting on was a wishing stone. No sooner had she spoken than the whole green pasture grew yellow. Sheila just screamed with excitement.

"The cow took a bite and then said, "Why, I can't eat this stuff. I'd soon die on it, and then what would your sister do? And how could a marble stable will be! She



was very angry, indeed. Sheila felt foolish as she looked at the yellow, where all the green had been. It was sort of silly, she admitted, to expect a cow to eat golden grass.

"I wish I'd never made that wish!" she wailed, and immediately the pasture was green again. Sheila and the cow declare it really happened. Anyway, it cured Sheila of wishing.

PICTURE PUZZLE



Answer to yesterday's: Red, red, red, red; Rhododendron.