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By Rev. Wm. C. Robinson, D.D.*

(This address was delivered by Dr. Robinson on the "Miami Youth For Christ" Rally program, on Saturday evening, May 12, at 8:00 o'clock. This great interdenominational Youth for Christ rally was held in the Orange Bowl Stadium, Miami, Fla. Rev. Daniel Iverson, Pastor of the Shenandoah Presbyterian Church, Miami, Fla., was the program chairman. Some 14,000 people attended this rally in the first appeal for Christ on a city-wide basis ever made to the City of Miami. The pageantry was very effective with the bands and a chorus of over 1,000 voices. The colors were presented by the American Legion. Then followed the raising of the National Flag and the Church Flag above it, according to the ceremony of the United States Navy. The address of welcome was given by the retiring Mayor of the city. Resolutions commending President Truman for setting aside a day of prayer were read. Ten decisions for Christ were turned in on the decision blanks that night. Our congratulations to Dan Iverson for his part in sponsoring this great Youth for Christ Rally. H.B.D.)

The events of our day are calling us back to the conviction of the ancient psalmist:

"Except the **Lord** build the house
They labor in vain that build it:
Except the **Lord** keep the city,
The watchman waketh but in vain."

—Psa. 127:1.

That nation which turned from the revelation God made of Himself in Jesus Christ to a Leader of their own making plummeted from the throne to the gutter. Their very gifts of scholarship and industry became the means of plunging a world into war, a Continent into slavery, and their own fatherland into desolation. Over the fall of the German Dritte Reich is written the lesson of the Psalmists: "Only that nation whose God is the Lord is either blessed or happy." (Psa. 144:15 - 33:12).

While the King of the Ages is manifesting His righteous acts to the nations of the earth, He is also teaching every household in America the homely lesson of the family altar. There is an empty chair at every table, and the letters coming back from the front read like this: "Keep on praying for us. It is only prayer that will get any of us out of this, alive." "Over here the arrow that fieth by day and the pestilence that walketh in darkness are not mere figures of speech."

Even when the Purple Hearts arrive they often do so with a note of thanksgiving: "I certainly thank God for the way He has looked after my platoon and me the last few days. It was, in several cases, only His mercy that brought us through. We were blessed by no deaths, only five wounded." Lowering the draft age to eighteen has brought us abruptly to the realization that we parents have only eighteen years in which to give our children the Christian faith before they go into a world distraught with rival ideologies.

Thus when my generation speaks to you young people of the coming generation we do so from no pinnacle of superior accomplishment. We speak of lessons we are learning the hard way, the heart-breaking way, when we beg you to believe what our grandfathers told us: You cannot build a lasting home without prayer, without the Bible, without the Sabbath, without the Church, without Jesus Christ. He is the only foundation upon which a successful home can be built. He is the builder of every Christian home. Every truly Christian home has Christ as its end, and the

Kingdom of God as its chief concern. In our building let us take care that Christ is the end, for the beginning is Christ; Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ. Then shall God be known in the palaces of Zion for a refuge. (Cf. Psa. 48:3).

God has laid in Zion a precious cornerstone, and other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid which is Jesus Christ. "Teach us to build upon the solid rock!" Christian homes can be built only by hearts which have been reached by the love-communion of God our Saviour, and by lives which have yielded obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Apart from Christ we are in darkness and the shadow of death. The natural man is at enmity toward God, for neither is He subject to the law of God, nor indeed can he be. But in Jesus Christ God meets us, God comes to us, God reveals Himself to us. We behold His glory, glory as of the only-begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. The light of the knowledge of the glory of God shines for us in the face of Jesus Christ. We have redemption through His blood even the forgiveness of our sins according to the riches of His grace. He is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world—your sins and my sins. He does this as He calls us, as the Father draws unto Him, as the Holy Spirit sheds abroad His love in our hearts. And as in response we look to Him, we entrust ourselves to Him, we feed upon Him, we hear His Word: "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

The Christ whom God has given to be the Head of His body the Church is the head of every man and the true head and foundation of every Christian home, for every Christian home is "the Church in thy house." Without minimizing the importance of the congregation assembled for the regular preaching of the Word and administration of the sacraments, we know that where two or three gather about a hearthstone in Christ's name, there is the Head of the Church and under the Head there is "the Church in thy house."

For the Church in thy house, Christ is not only the foundation, He is also the builder. He says, "I build my Church." Our children are a heritage of the Lord. As we bring them to God in the arms of faith and on the vows of our dedication, Christ through His Church takes them up in His arms,

lays His hands upon them, blesses them, and returns them to us to be nurtured for Him in the Christian faith. For Christ's sake the Father gives His angels charge over them to cover their heads in the day of battle and His right hand upholds them as they fly to the uttermost parts of the sea.

In building the Christian homes of tomorrow, we are faced with tremendous problems. But I myself am the gravest of these problems, my wicked self-will, my perverted desire for dominion, my sinful pride, my selfish lust. In every heart there are bitter battles to be fought, stern campaigns to be waged against the world, the flesh, and the devil. Now the building of a home means at least two such hearts under every roof. Within and around each home are forces of sin, hostility, fear, anxiety, lust, desire for dominion, forces that are crushing thousands of American homes. Troubles that are legion come into every home—from the White House to the humblest hovel.

There is one and only one who can conquer us and all His other enemies, and make and keep our homes Christian. In Jesus Christ:

"The King of love my Shepherd is
I nothing lack if I am His
Whose goodness faileth never,
And He is mine forever."

He is "a king who is able to make a valley of trouble into a door of hope, who is able to make light come out of darkness, love out of hatred, life out of death, and the kingdom of God out of a world which loves darkness rather than light because its deeds are evil."

He and He alone of all the sons of men kept His life of fellowship and obedience. Then having put away our sins by the sacrifice of Himself, He was brought by the resurrection and ascension into immediate and unbreakable fellowship with the Father. As we are in Him that blessed fellowship is ours. When one crosses the ocean he is saved from sinking into the depths of the sea by the steamer in which he travels. We needy sinners are saved from sinking away from fellowship with the living God, only by abiding in Christ. For the voyage of life, He is the anchor, the ship, and the pilot. Be sure, young people, that you do not launch your home without Him. Service man, as you return to the brave little wife who has cared for the bairns and kept the home fires burning be sure that Christ comes back with you. When sin or anger or hate conquer everybody loses. "When God's love conquers, each side wins and no side loses." Christ is the victory in the home, for He is the Master Builder. Do not try to build without Him.

Except the Lord build the house,
They labor in vain that build it.

As we build the homes of tomorrow we need a clear vision of the true ends of life.

"O Master, lend us sight
To see the towers gleaming in the
light."

As Christians we cannot merely build our homes for our own ease, or our selfish pleasure. If we seek to save our lives we still lose them, only if

we give them to God in service shall we save them unto life eternal. By the grace of God we must build the walls of Zion, each one building over against his own house. We must build for the Kingdom of God on earth.

Our hearts thrilled as our boy wrote us how his Ozark Division, spear-heading the Ninth Army's drive from the Ruhr to the Rhine, captured 86 towns and villages and raised Old Glory over Krefeld, their third great captured German city. But by faith we see a yet more glorious banner and we pray for the day when the Ozark and the other divisions of Christian young people shall lift the colors of Christ our King over cities and villages, over countrysides and communities, over islands and peninsulas which have never known His gracious reign.

In the dreadful killing times in Scotland the martyrs died crying that the children who were yet unborn were bound by covenants to religion and to reformation. Into your keeping, O young people of today, we commit the heritage of the future. May you not go into that future for self-aggrandizement, may you not rush in under the fanatical banner of some perverted dictator. May you go into that future to claim it for Christ who loved you and gave Himself up for you.

From the Young People of France comes this challenge: "We must express ourselves adequately about the gospel." From small groups of young people in Germany Pastor Stewart Herman, of the American Church in Berlin, brings the message: "We do not intend to give up the Christian faith." From Britain sounds this call:

"There is only one thing matters
In this passing world of sin,
That our lives should tell for Jesus,
Be of some account for Him."

Will the youth of America join the chorus of loyalty to Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood?

"My will is not my own,
Till Thou has made it Thine.
If it would reach a monarch's throne
It must its crown resign."

Making Christ the end of our lives and of our homes and prospective homes will have definite bearings upon what we do and what we avoid doing in our play and in our work, with our time and with our talents. It will mean full-time Christian service for some who have made other plans. In saying this I am not setting myself up as either a law-giver or an example. The Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our King, the Lord is our Law-giver, and God hath given Him for a Leader and a Commander for the people. I do not even mean that everyone will do exactly the things that every other Christian does. Different people see things differently and our Heavenly Father even permits His children to do some things of which He does not approve. In the Kingdom of Grace the love of Christ constrains each one to render obedience to the King, and these constraints of His love are individual and personal.

The story of a little girl may illustrate the point. This little tot was selfishly crowding all her

toys into her lap and under her dress so that her little visitor could play with none of them. Then a beautiful butterfly flew in through the open window and suddenly the toys dropped all over the room as the child rose and stretched her arms to catch the butterfly. When Christ becomes the center of our lives, the values of life change. When His love is shed abroad in our hearts many of the toys that formerly seemed so important become trivial.

Essential Christianity is not looking in upon our own things, but looking out upon God's plan for a redeemed world; it is not setting our affections upon the things below, but upon the things above where Christ sits at the right hand of God; it is not dwelling on those things which are behind but pressing on with Christ into those things which are before. When Christ and the Kingdom of God are our greatest concern we face the future unafraid. The Lamb hath overcome to open the seals and administer the counsels of redemption. He goes forth on the white horse of victory conquering and to conquer. He shall reign until the last enemy is destroyed and He returns in His majestic glory as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Yes the future belongs to God and God has committed it to Jesus Christ and sealed the delivery of power with these words: Even so come Lord Jesus. *Vexilla Dei prodeunt!*

"He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat,

He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat.

O be swift, my soul to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet!

Our God is marching on!"

Will you march with Him? Yes God has other hands, and other feet and other voices, other wicks upon which to place His light. He is not worshipped by men's hands as though He needed anything, seeing He giveth to all life, breath and all things. But we can never be grateful enough if the Lord of glory count us faithful, putting us under His banner of love, in His shock troops with which He conquers His foes.

Now we can only serve Him if He first serve us in the ministries of His redeeming mercy. The late Reverend John R. Mackay, an esteemed minister of the Free Church of Scotland, once said that it seemed as he looked into his own heart he could see only darkness, guilt and pride. "But then I remembered that Christ is a Prophet who can dispel my darkness, Christ is a Priest who can remove my guilt, Christ is a King who can humble my pride. And I said it were good that Christ and I should meet."

May God meet you tonight, my young friend. May God in Christ confront you, dispute the sinful passage with you this hour as He did with Saul of Tarsus on the Road to Damascus. Francis Thompson tells how he sought to elude as God sought to save him, how he fled as God pursued him like a veritable Hound of Heaven. Until:

"Halts by me that footfall:

Is my gloom after all

Shade of His hand, outstretched,

Caressingly?"

When you seek to elude a rendezvous with Christ you are playing traitor to your own soul,

to your hope of a Christian home here and the Father's house hereafter. When you drive Christ away you drive love away—the deepest, holiest, most undeserved love that ever faced your life. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness even so was the Son of Man lifted up bearing our sins in His own body on the tree. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. As Christ calls, answer Him tonight. Now is the accepted time! Today is the day of salvation! Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house.

*Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga.

The Daily Prayer Union In The Fellowship Of The Holy Spirit

As many readers of The Southern Presbyterian Journal are members of the Daily Prayer Union, I asked Dr. Dendy if he would kindly allow me to write a few lines to the members and wish them God's richest blessing with Phil. 4:4-6 and I. Thess. 5:23.

I have not seen my sons in England (two ministers and a doctor) for six years and I am sure you will all understand that I long to see them again. We hope to get a passage from New York at the end of this month or in June, not forgetting James 4:15.

Up to May 25 letters will reach us at our old home, The National Bible Institute, 340 West Fifty-Fifth Street, New York 19, N. Y., and after that date addressed to Rev. R. R. Neill, M.A., Rectory Toobing, London, S. W. 17. You will find his address on The Christian Workers' Guide. Please note that the postage to England of letters is 5 cents, postcards 3 cents.

We members are all one family, members one of the other, and we feel sure that you all will remember us in your prayer.

With loving greetings from my wife and me.

Yours in the Lord's service,
Heb. 13:5,6. D. H. Dolman.

New Life For The Christian Church

If Twentieth Century congregations are to regain the power too many have lost and prepare their members to withstand the perils of a threatening future, the cry must be: Back to the early Christian churches for their earnest, painstaking, thorough teaching of God's truth! Back to the apostles' patient, persevering instruction in the saving Word! Give us sermons with texts from the Scriptures rather than subjects from magazines or motion pictures; Bible classes in churches rather than dramatic-arts classes; daily Christian soul of heart training for our children in preference to any modern theories of mind-training; catechisms with the Christian doctrine explained in questions and answers, a thousand times than some of the Sabbath School books with stories about bluebirds and pussy-willows, yet not a syllable about the Saviour! —Dr. Walter A. Maier.