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New Editor of The Journal

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visit and to formulate some mode of procedure. This meeting was attended by a number of high ranking military officers, men concerned with government, and others interested in the welfare of America. It was a secular and not a religious gathering.

But the amazing thing is that after long discussion those present came to the conclusion that the answer is to be found in God, not in man.

Out of this meeting came the concrete suggestion that Christians unite in prayer over this matter; praying that God will overrule what seems to be a grave error in judgment. Also, it was suggested that in every city which Mr. Khrushchev visits churches be opened specifically for prayer. In other words, that a wall of divine protection and guidance be raised for all concerned.

This editorial carries with it the specific suggestion that our readers unite in prayer during the coming weeks. Pray that God will get honor and glory to Himself and that He will cause all of this feverish exchange of national leaders to work out for the advancement of His Kingdom.

—L. N. B.

Capital Punishment

Capital Punishment rests on the command of God, "Whosoever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man," Gen. 9:6. In accord therewith, the law of God given through Moses provides the death penalty for murder. Ex. 21:12f; Num.35:16f; Deut.19:11f. The sixth commandment is to be understood thus: Thou shalt not kill, that is, do no murder. And murder is such a serious sin that one guilty thereof shall be punished by the death penalty. God has committed this power to organized society. The same is recognized by the New Testament in Romans 13:1-5. That is, the state does have the police power and the power to keep order and, if need be, make war. And in the proper exercise of these powers the state is not guilty of murder when it executes a murderer for his crime.

—W. C. R.

Life in Focus

For the Christian, the true child of God, life should be lived in perfect perspective. That this is often not the case is due to our failure to appropriate to ourselves the richness and fullness of that which Christ has to offer.

Many of us have experienced that frustration of looking through glasses belonging to someone else, only to see things out of focus and hazy in outline. Most of us have looked through binoculars only to see a blurred landscape or an object we could not distinguish. But once the glass is adjusted to our own vision we see things clearly and in their proper perspective.

When our lives are submitted to God's holy will; when our own wills are subordinated to His; when we accept developments in the light of His perfect knowledge and love; when we look at the present,

the past and the future in the light of His complete provision for our welfare, there comes with it all a sense of inward peace, not because of circumstances with which we are familiar, or which may develop, but because we know we are safe in the keeping of the Sovereign God of the universe who is at the same time our loving Heavenly Father.

Christ does so many things for us that we can never appreciate or enumerate them all. But it is profitable to consider just a few of the things which are ours because of faith in Him.

For the Christian the *Way has been opened* for He is the Way, the Truth and our Life, the One who makes it possible for us to come into God's holy presence.

He is the *barrier remover*. Across the road of life we are frequently confronted with what appear to be insuperable obstacles. Often these are of our own making. Again they may be placed there for our discipline and warning. Or they may be testings by which our faith is strengthened. In any case we hold the hand of the One for whom there are no barriers. Often these difficulties prove to be but stepping stones to new horizons of faith and living. Through Christ we often find a barrier to be nothing more than a renewed challenge to stop trying in our own strength and watch Him do marvelous things in His own way.

Christ is also the *mind adjuster*. The non-Christian can never see or understand true wisdom because a reverential fear of and trust in God is essential to wisdom. Spiritual truth remains foolishness until the Holy Spirit takes of the things of Christ and speaks of them to our hearts. Then and only then do our minds become adjusted to divine revelation so that we see ourselves and the world in which we live in the light of eternity.

For the Christian there is also the comfort of *hope assured*. Those most precious things of God are appropriated by faith. Many of them will be experienced only after we move on to be forever with the Lord. But in our hearts we *know* the One in whom we have believed; we are assured that He is faithful and true and that some day we will have the joy of fulfillment with Him.

In this connection it may be added that for the Christian the *future is clarified*. The uncertainties of the immediate become so trivial when we compare them with the certainties of the future. Through this experience we learn to place a proper value on the things to be seen and handled, knowing they are temporary, while we anticipate with great joy the things which are not seen and which are eternal.

Because of appropriating to our hearts and lives the richness of a life lived in Christ the Christian becomes a *light in a dark place*, the savor of the salt of life in an environment of moral putrefaction. God has not placed believers in the world without a purpose. He expects us to witness to His saving, transforming and keeping power. He expects us to be so *different* from the unregenerate society of which we are a part that unbelievers will see, take note and say, "I want what that Christian has; I want that