

the
PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL

Advocating continuation of a Presbyterian Church loyal to Scripture and the Reformed faith

Seeking God's Best for the Church

Many people today are dissatisfied with the Church as it is. But dissatisfaction is unhealthy. The dissatisfied man is critical of things as they are, and thus becomes uninvolved. He stands off at a safe distance and takes pot shots.

The unsatisfied man, on the other hand, is always involved and committed to as much as is good now, but is always looking expectantly ahead to better things to come.

Christians who are seeking God's best for the Church must be those who do not criticize, but correct; who do not deplore, but do; who do not lament, but lead.

—Al Watson
(See p. 9)

S. S. LESSON AND YOUTH PROGRAM FOR JUNE 20

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THE ABORTION ISSUE

Thank you for the recent article from the distinguished Lutheran theologian Dr. Hermann Sasse condemning most abortions. In so writing Sasse is simply representative of those theologians and ethical schol-

ars who have seriously considered this matter.

I have in mind a brief statement by G. C. Berkouwer in *Man, the Image of God* (p. 197), an able discussion by Karl Barth in *Church Dogmatics* (III, iv. 415), Helmut

Thielecke's *Ethics of Sex* (p. 226-247), Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Ethics* (p. 130-131). "Fetocide upon request" is challenged by the leading ethical scholars of the Methodist Church, Albert Outler, Robert Nelson and Paul Ramsey of Princeton University in *Religion in Life*, summer 1970, and a chapter in J. T. Noonan's *The Morality of Abortion*.

The definitive book on the subject is perhaps by Germain Grisez of Georgetown University: *Abortion: the Myths, the Realities and the Arguments*. Then our fine Reformed scholar Rousas J. Rushdoony in *The Myth of Over-Population* has exposed that fallacy on which much of the pressure for feticides for convenience rests.

Christ is referred to neither in the 1970 act of our Assembly on *Abortion*, nor in the Board's paper on *Therapeutic Abortion*. While it belongs to His Majesty to teach and rule His Church by His Spirit and Word the Lordship of Christ is not mentioned. Though forgiveness for the sin of abortion without just cause is only to be had in that Jesus was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification His Saviourhood is ignored. We plead for a more serious consideration than our Church has yet given this matter.

—(Rev.) Wm. C. Robinson
Decatur, Ga.

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SPIRITUAL, NOT ECONOMIC
You might be interested to know that four top officials of the Board of Social Missions of the Lutheran Church in America also went to Paris the week of March 21 to "counsel" the peace talks. Our benevolence money went for their trip (I think another man did go along at his own expense) and Lutherans are as reluctant as Presbyterians to see their sacrificially given offerings misused for such unrepresentative purposes.

Along slightly different lines, it would be salutary indeed if the *Journal* could analyze the frequent assertion that the revolutionary movements in Asia and Africa and elsewhere all had their origin in the Gospel and the work of Christian missionaries in their countries.

The idea is that once these persons learned through the Gospel that they were created in the image of God, and that their individual souls were worth much in the sight of their