

RELIGION AND LIFE

BY VERY REV. GEORGE C. PIDGEON, D.D., LL.D.
First Moderator of the United Church of Canada

CHRISTIANITY CAN MOLD NEW MEN

By Geo. C. Pidgeon, D.D., LL.D.

There is one fact in modern Christian history that cannot receive too much attention—it has been tried out and it works. I remember vividly the evening in which John Geddie's biography was brought into our home. Father had heard John Geddie before he went to the New Hebrides to preach Christ to the cannibals, and here was the record of Christ's new triumphs among the lowest races on earth. One cannot read the tenth and eleventh chapters of the Acts of the Apostles without feeling the thrill of surprise when St. Peter's bold experience proved that Christ could save and change Gentiles as effectively as Jews.

Scientists have occasionally regarded some races as sub-human, but no race has ever been found in which Christ would not bring the lowest into the highest and best.

I repeat—this is not merely a discovery of ancient times; it is one of the triumphs of today. Look at some of the vital truths implied in these statements.

Christianity is creative. It actually makes men new. In spite of its glorious record of moral achievement extending over the centuries, it comes as a surprise to each generation of men.

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locally that Christ can change the people around them as radically as He changed Paul and Cornelius in the days of old.

JUST AS TRUE
That Jesus is alive, omnipresent and all-powerful, eagerly looking for opportunities to make men. His own is as true today in every town as it has been in ancient Antioch and modern Eromanga. Jesus is looking for men who believe this of Him and offer themselves to Him.

The need of the hour is for men with a new expectancy and a willingness to give themselves

for the realization of their expectations. Recall the frequent use of the words "even me" in the hymns and prayers of our own time. To believe in one-self is an instrument in Christ's hands is often the first step on the road to spiritual achievement.

When Principal Clarence MacKinnon constituted the last General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada as it existed before the Union, he preached on the text:—"Except a grain of wheat fall into the earth and die, it abideth by itself alone; but if it die, it beareth much fruit."

Then when Professor S.P. Rose gave the address for the Commission Service just after the three Churches had been pronounced one, he chose the same text.

One who had a part in those historic services cannot but feel that thereby this text became the motto of the United Church. She is committed to exemplify

the Christian principle here stated in her own unique way.

Of course, it lays down the law of life for every church and for every follower of Christ. He saved the world by His self-sacrifice, and every real Christian make the same self-giving the heart of all he can say and do for his Master.

What a colossal task it must be for a man at the head of a great business enterprise to put this principle into practice. It will require a soul possessed by this Christian ideal, and in addition, determination, courage and faith in a degree approaching the heroic. His business must pay in order to continue in existence, but he must make the service it is designed to offer his chief aim.

Nature is merciless on organisms which exist for themselves alone, and history is just as exacting with men.

NOT A MAN
The man who has not some-

thing greater than himself for which to live and die is no man at all; he has descended below the level of the brute. So it is with the institutions men build.

How far beyond the reach of our minds is the decision Jesus made on the Mount of Temptation. He knew Himself—whom and what He was. He realized His power—He knew that He was able to do anything required for the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

He knew His people, and saw that the moment He would unfurl the banner of a militia at Messiah, the nation would rise as one man in His support. But He also knew that a Messiah of that type would leave the world in its sin and alienation from God. So He committed Himself to the man's salvation without cost.

We owe everything to that decision—all we have, all we are, and all we hope to be.

It is this Person, Divine in his unreserved self-giving who commands our allegiance. He calls us to follow Him, and now only to follow, but to become in our measure what He is.

W. T. Stead, the controversial British journalist, once put it in a way that shocked as—"Be a Christ."

We would not presume to say that, but we can represent Him, depend on His support to steady us on such a height.

After all, Dr. R.B. McClure, the healer, does represent Christ among the sufferers of India as his father did before him in meeting China's desperate need. To bring Jesus Christ to all men is to save them.

EASIER DELIVERY
The Norwegian post office is installing collective mail boxes on the ground floors of all multi-story apartment houses.

LORNE VALLEY
Mr. and Mrs. James Callaghan and Mr. Louis Callaghan motored to Dromore on Wednesday evening to visit the former's father, Mr. John F. Callaghan.

Mrs. Grover MacKay and daughter Jean of Strathcona, were visitors at the home of Mrs. MacKay's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James MacNeill on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy MacLeod motored to Springhill, N.S., on Sunday to visit relatives and friends.

Mr. Francis MacIntyre was a visitor to the city on Saturday.

Mrs. Reuben McCannell and Mrs. George McCannell of Montague, motored to Lorne Valley on Friday to visit the former's

brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Munro MacGrath.

Mrs. Peter H. Gauthier, Rustico, was a visitor to Lorne Valley on Saturday. She was the guest of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. James Callaghan.

A.C. Louis Callaghan left on Sunday for Greenwood, N.S. after spending a month's leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Callaghan.

Mr. and Mrs. Wellington MacLeod, Uigg, visited relatives and friends in Lorne Valley on Sunday.

The members of Lorne Valley Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Malcolm MacLeod, for

the June meeting. Following the business procedure, a social time was enjoyed. Mrs. Lloyd MacDonaid invited the members to her home for the next meeting.

Mrs. Laura Oatway and family of Montreal, Quebec, are vacationing on the Island. They are guests of Mrs. Oatway's father, Mr. Patrick Clarkin and Mrs. Clarkin.

Mr. Alton MacGrath left by plane for Toronto, Ontario, on Saturday, after spending three weeks visiting in this vicinity, the guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Munro MacGrath.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh MacLeod, Central Royalty, motored to Lorne Valley on Sunday to visit the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm MacLeod.

Mrs. Donald Shaw and Mrs. Raymond Shaw were visitors to Montague on Friday.

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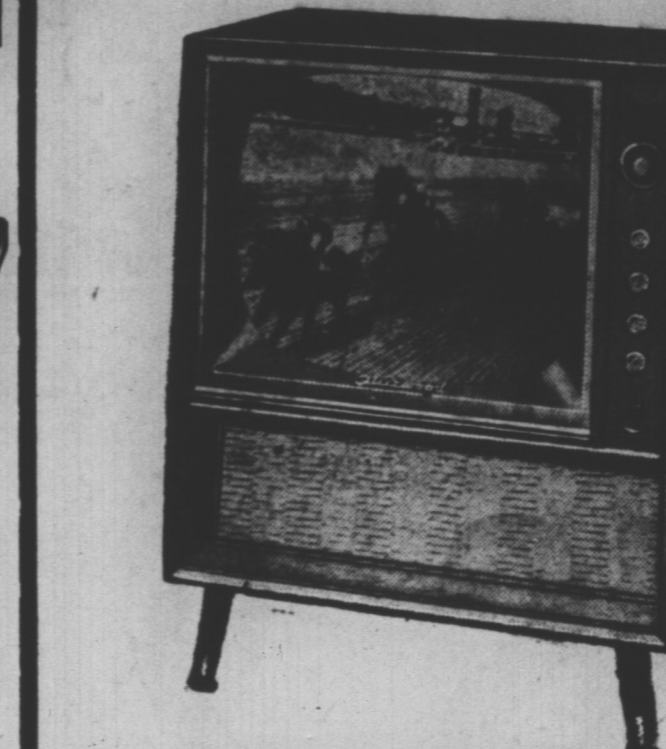


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- 17" Emerson TV and STAND with inside antenna for . \$209.95 or \$1.50 weekly
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CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Frederick R. Stewart express sincere thanks to their many kind neighbours and friends who assisted in many ways during the illness and recent sad bereavement; also those who sent flowers and messages of sympathy.