

"The One Way Out"

Luke 21: 25-33.

text:- Luke 21: 25-26.

Introduction:- All the way through its 66 books the Bible speaks of the "last days", the climax of human history which is yet to be.

Our Lord speaks of that forth coming time in these words. "There shall be signs in the sun and the moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the waves, men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens and the earth were shaken. If there has been a period in history when the powers of heaven and the earth were shaking, it is the present moment.

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There are two very significant Greek words in this passage of the Bible. The first one is "Sunochē", or "distress". The other one is "Amphorā", which is translated "perplexity". The first word "sunochē" actually means "to be pressured from all sides". Here Jesus is saying that there will come to all the earth a generation that will be pressed upon from every direction.

Today we are being pressed internationally, from south Viet Nam to Cyprus to Panama as never before. Each day the crisis multiplies. Each day the solution grows more difficult. Each day we draw nearer the hour of maximum danger. *towards now going on*

The population of the world is rapidly increasing and now stands at three billion. In the next 37 years there will be six billion. One half of the entire population of the world is under 21 years of age. They are not going to wait. In the Congo, at this very hour, we read that the marauding bands of killers are all from 15 years to 28 years of age. Young people are on the march throughout the world. They want a cause to champion, why not give them Christianity. *24 M. Look in our country* Many are being pressured morally. Most of the rece-

We have gone back to days of Noah

nt magazines are describing the moral condition of the United States. The publisher of one magazine article states that the article was published to shock the American people and to show us how far we have gone down the road to immorality. President ~~Johnson~~ has taken note of the immoral conditions in the nation's capital. A popular evangelist says that we are as immoral as Rome was when she fell. Our literature, our motion picture films, our every-day lives are so riddled with filth, sexual filth, with immorality among the rich and the poor, that we cry out that if ever we needed a revival, an old fashioned ^{spiritual} revival, it is now. *Our morals would put Sodom & Gomorrah to shame*

We are being pressed by our social problems. There is over-crowding in many of our cities. We need not go further than the capital city of Indiana. We were shocked to read at Christmas time a fire broke out in an overcrowded tenement, and that 12 people who were living in one room were burned to death. That should never have happened in a nation such as America, the wealthiest nation in the world. Then there is the hunger problem; the poverty problem. We have an increase in crime. Crime has increased 158 per cent in the last 20 years, while the population has increased but 34 percent. We have 8 million alcoholics. Seventy-five percent of crime is related to drinking. Highway deaths are a great concern to our law officials, but over fifty percent of the deaths caused on our highways today are caused by drinking. *Not safe at home or on street - murders, robberies - rapes - where will end?*

Chicago, Detroit

When too, we are pressed by the race issue, which is not going to be solved in the streets or in the halls of our legislatures. Every day we have accounts where the race issue was being raised. We have had the race issue in Selma Alabama, on the west coast, in Philadelphia, in Chicago, there are forces at work that would cause revolution, and cause our government to fall. This problem, the race problem, will have to be solved in the hearts of Christian men and women.

Dayton

we are being pressured by our mental situation. Over one half of all the hospital beds in the U. S. ARE OCCUPIED BY MENTAL PATIENTS.

pressed on every side

When there pressures being put upon us by home problems, health problems, and personal problems.

Jesus said there would be a time in history when men would be pressed like this from all sides. He used the word "amphoria", which translated means "perplexity". He said that there was but one way out. One way out, and only one. He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life". Men are turning today to alcohol, to sex, to every kind of relief, but there is only one way out; and that way is the way we seemingly refuse to take.

Some one has made the statement that "Christianity has failed". The truth is the world has not even tried Christianity. Scores of nations are rejecting the remedy. India, China, Russia, and many other nations have closed their doors. If the entire world rejects Christ and His message, then all is lost and there is no hope.

But all is not lost. Christ said so. It is such a simple way. The Word of God teaches us, that when Jesus died upon the cross, he took upon himself our sins and mistakes and pressures. And, as He himself said, "In the world ye shall ^{have} pressures, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world". The victory is first a spiritual one. What we need in America now is a return to the belief that God's laws of morality and truth are still in force. God's laws have not been revoked. You can break God's laws for a while, but in the end they will finally break you. We need the will to resist the forces of tyramy, and the will to maintain our freedoms when they are being attacked.

The church has an unparalleled opportunity in this mixed up world today. God is still on the throne. Back of the pattern of events He is working out His infinite, eternal purpose. What we need to do is to hold steady in the crisis & look to Jesus Christ. The times call for sanity & watchfulness. ^{prayer} People who will risk all for love of God, who see Christ in all human need & are out to

establish truth, honor & decency
in this world in Christ's name
That's the challenge God
himself is offering.

~~How about it?~~

yes there is a way out it is the way
our fathers took, the early colonists who
who came to the shores of the new world.

It is way G. Washington took at
valley Forge. It is way B. Franklin
took during Constitutional convention
when they paused to seek God's help
during an impasse in their
deliberations. It is way A. Lincoln
took in darkest days of civil war

Let us as a nation take that
way now while there is still
hope. Today the greatest contribution you
can make to your nation is to give your
life & heart to Christ because when you
make your renewal to Christ it is
America thru you making its decision
for Christ & trust in God - This is not a time
for despair it is a time to turn to God. How
about it?