

America's Hour
Has Struck

4/15/57
A Union
A.M.

Scripture Lesson: - Psalm 85.

Text: - Psalm 85: 1, 6.

Introduction: - Observe how the psalmist, after making an acknowledgement that looks back into history makes an appeal that looks round on reality. It begins with verse 4: "Turn us O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease", to this is added, in verse 6, the cry, "Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in thee".

Look now at the soul of America, and see if you can honestly say that all is well. It is about as nearly gone as was the soul of ancient Rome; as was the soul of ancient Greece; as was the soul of modern Germany; as was the soul of modern China or others that one could mention. Remember a nation can lose its soul; and when it does, what profit is there in its factories or its armies?

The head of one of our great mission boards said recently, "More people are without God in America now than ever before in history". This was said in spite of the sporadic revivals, in spite of denominational statistics, in spite of the religious news in the press and the radio. By those who have made a study of the situation, it is estimated that there are about 27,000,000 youth in this country who are not receiving any religious instruction whatever, and are growing up as moral morons and spiritual illiterates. A prominent Christian leader, speaking at the nations capitol gave the following summary: It has been estimated that 40% of our grammar school children have no connection with any religious organization; that 80% of our high school students have no definite affiliation with organized religion; that 90% of our university students slept in last Sunday morning. There you have, from every sound Christian viewpoint, progress in reverse.

World War No. I.

Since world war I, the U.S. has been suffering from spiritual undernourishment. We have taken a good account of our bodies and have neglected our souls. When our bodies grow strong and our souls grow weak from malnutrition, they fall into all manner of diseases. Let us look at some of our problems. Take crime. It is now the worst in our history. According to FBI there is a rape every 52 minutes. Take gambling. The Kiefauber committee showed that there was plenty of gambling all over the country. The estimate is that \$30,000,000,000 a year is the amount which the betting public flings away in gambling. They say that the "numbers game" takes \$4,000,000,000.

Drinking, has reached the place where some of our social workers speak of ours, as an "Alcohol culture". What we need is a real effective indignation over the degradations and disintegrations that are going on all around us.

Loose talk in Washington. Talk about our atom bomb situation. How do they get our big wigs to talk about these things. By sleuthing? No. By bribing? No. By coercion? No. How then? By attending a dinner where attending a dinner where the bigwigs were, and all were well lubricated with liquor, there a high ranking official told him all he wanted to know.

We are living in a relaxed age. The conscience of the people with regard to their public figures is so elastic as to be permanently limp. It is hard to work up any mass indignation these days.

Business. We too need a moral and spiritual overhauling. An expert was called to tell what was wrong with a factory that was failing. This is what he said to management and labor. "This factory needs conversion immediately". He said they has fine machinery, that he was talking about the conversion of men. Then the expert replied, "From the chairman of the board of directors, to the last man that works at the lathe, you are rotten with selfishness and uselessness and unless you convert the hearts of these men you will continue to fail. It is here that the Christian

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gospel has a word for this hour. The power of the love of God's grace in Jesus Christ lies the secret of changed men. Without this, there will be no radical improvement in our economical situation. For the reasons already given, I believe that America's hour has struck. It is a revival or revolution. We need to be praying with a new earnestness, "Lord, wilt thou not revive us again, that they people may rejoice in thee"

An Upward Look.

We discover that this psalm has also an affirmation that looks with humility and spiritual sensitivity upward. In verse 8 we find these words, "I will hear what the Lord will speak? That means I will be open to what God has to say. We ought to become quiet and reverent enough to listen to the Lord. The psalmist even tells us what God will say if we will listen. "He will speak peace unto his people". That is hopeful, is it not. But there is a warning in that verse. "But let them not return again to folly". That should sober us. Then comes the reassuring word: "Surely his salvation is nigh to them that fear, that glory may dwell in our land". The glory of this land of ours can never be anything but cheap tinsel, unless we have good men. And good men, from the Christian viewpoint, are saved men, changed men, Christ-like men. They and they alone can give us the glory that God reckons great.

A college girl received an ovation for having the highest grades of any one in her class. Her family gave a party for her. Yet all the while she was most miserable. She knew she had cheated in her last exam. She knew that the highest grade should have gone to another girl. A short time after she went to a revival meeting and there under the influence of the gospel she made a complete surrender to Christ. She promised that she would make the matter of grades right. She went to the college authorities and acknowledged that she had temporarily stolen the questions out of the teachers brief-case. Then with a new heart, a new spirit, a new code of living, she was ready to make her contribution to the kind of America a God can bless. An America whose greatness lies in the

character of her people.

Yes, the day of revivals is not past. "If my people who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, then will I hear from heaven, and heal their land".

Our sins will not go unpunished we will pay in blood sacrifice & suffering. Lets turn to god before it is too late. How can the nation turn to god? by the church waking up & getting right, getting forgiveness & getting on praying grounds again. For the church to be awakened & revived means each church member must be right. You as a church member, are you cold & indifferent, are you lukewarm, living a worldly prayerless life. Are you interested in things of world more than things of god? How can church be what it should be. Come today get closer to the Lord, maybe you are cold come & rekindle the fires on the altar of your heart. Its no disgrace to come to the altar if you feel you aren't where you once were. Come & get a new touch on your life today.