

but if he is honest he may go on to explain that actually he thinks that no one knows what became of the physical elements that composed the body of Christ, after they were laid in the tomb.

Only this week, since my return from California, I heard of an instructor in a school with an excellent reputation as a fine Christian college. This instructor is reported to have told students that the Bible is full of errors, that we need an entirely new approach to its understanding, and that it would make no difference to his faith whether a man called Jesus ever lived on this earth or not. Yet when he stood before the Board of Trustees of the college he declared that he believes in the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures!

Nowadays it seems that people can interpret words in any sense that they desire. Occasionally true believers thoughtlessly repeat the lingo of the Modernist, expressing true belief in words that are normally used to mean the opposite. Far more commonly, we find people who really deny the Word of God, speaking in language that seems to affirm it. Double-talk is at a high point in our day. We need watchmen. We need men who are qualified to determine exactly what people really mean, to point out the conflicting forces of our day, to show the currents that seek to engulf Christianity and Americanism, and to present the situation clearly and plainly. We need clear documentation and definite evidence. In this field the *Christian Beacon* has always maintained a high level. It is a true watchman upon the walls of Zion.

WATCHING NOT AN END IN ITSELF

I am sure that no one will so misunderstand me as to think that I am stating that the supreme task of the Christian is to be a watchman and that no other task is comparable to this. The watchman performs a very necessary service in the Christian world. It is the duty of every one of us to assist and support this work, but it is of course not of such supreme importance as completely to overshadow other tasks. The purpose of the watchman is not watching, as an end in itself; the real purpose is the protection of the city. Were there no city of active, vital life, the activity of the watchman would be meaningless.

In the case of which we are speaking, the city stands for the work of the Gospel. This involves spreading the good news of salvation through Christ. It involves showing young Christians how they can grow in the knowledge of the Lord. It involves helping all Christians learn to make their lives count for Christ. Dr. Carl McIntire, editor of the *Christian Beacon* and director of the 20th Century Reformation Hour broadcast, who is one of the finest and most effective watchmen in our Christian world today, would be the last to have a misunderstanding on this point. I think of the fine pastoral work that he does in his large church. I think of the effective presentations of the Gospel that he so steadily gives. I think of his great interest in the work of foreign missions. Anyone familiar with these and many other phases of his testimony would realize that his vital work as watchman is only one phase of his testimony, even though a very important one. The purpose of the watchman is the protection of the city. The purpose of the Christian watchman is the protection of the work of Christ from that which would come in and destroy it. The Christian work itself is the ultimate objective—it is for that that all our watching is done.

Furthermore, the watchman is a watchman for all of the city. He is not merely a watchman for other watchmen. He is not simply a watchman for those who pay his salary. He is not simply a watchman for those who stand with him. He is a watchman for the whole city. Even though some of those who truly believe in Christ and who are truly serving Him should fail to see the need of the watchman's services, or should even oppose the performance of these vital tasks, still the true watchman is protecting them as well as the other members of the city of God. The work of the watchman is for the benefit of the whole city, even when part of the city may fail to appreciate it. His fire is directed against the enemy who are trying to destroy the city, not against those who may be ignorantly or foolishly neglecting to help in its defense. It is the duty of all Christians to assist in the work of the watchman and to uphold his hands. It is the duty of the watchman to protect all true Christians in their work, and to support them even if they fail in this part of their duty and refuse to uphold his hands as they should.

Year after year it has been a great pleasure for me to participate in successive *Christian Beacon* banquets, fellowshiping with those who recognize the importance of the work of the watchman, rejoicing in the work that the *Beacon* is doing, anxious to uphold its hands and to extend its work.

How we all rejoice in the spread of the 20th Century Reformation Hour broadcast in these last two years! Surely God has raised up Dr. McIntire and the *Christian Beacon* for such a time as this.

Watchman, tell us of the night. What are the forces that would engulf us? What are the trends against which we must vigorously watch?

MODERNISM

First, and most pervasive of these is Modernism.

Many people fail to realize how important a place Modernism holds in all the movements that are dangerous to the Christian world, and to human freedom. It has been well said that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Nothing has contributed more to the establishment of human freedom than the results of the preaching of the Gospel, and nothing is more effective than Modernism in preparing the way for its destruction.

When religious leaders forsake the cause of Christ they must find other outlets for their enthusiasm and

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