

to present the Gospel. We praise the Lord when the Gospel is presented, however it is done. But we stand for a certain formalism, a certain amount of ritual, a certain amount of dignity in our services; and we have certain procedures that have been worked out, but we do not favor the direction in which many of our churches have been moving recently - I do not mean of ours but of American churches, ^fintroducing more and more ritual into their services. When the reality of religion goes, often people try to substitute, it seems, ritual for that ~~of~~ which is living. And yet Presbyterianism has never felt that this is a major thing. When Hooper, a great Calvinist of England, was invited under Edward VI to become a bishop in the Church of England, Hooper said, "How can I do it. I have to put on all these gowns, all these ceremonies, all these forms." He said, "I do not find that in the Scripture, I do not believe in all that." He would not accept the position of bishop and he sent a letter to John Calvin and he said, "What shall I do;" and John Calvin wrote back and he said, "The matter of forms and ceremonies is an indifferent matter." He said, "Too much form and ceremony is apt to crowd the Gospel out. When you have a chance to make your voice heard, oppose it; but if you have an opportunity to present the Gospel and stand for God's truth by adopting these forms which you would not have otherwise, then take them," he said and Hooper became a bishop and for a few years did a great work in spreading the Word of God in his area. And then when Edward VI died and Mary Tudor came in, they took Bishop Hooper out to the stake and they tied him up, they put sticks in front of him and they set fire to them when the sticks were green; and the smoke went up but the burning was slow and Hooper suffered for a long, long time. But he suffered for his faith in the Word of God. He stood for God's truth. It was a part of our heritage, of our Presbyterian heritage.

And then we should look at the matter of doctrine. Even though the name Presbyterian does not specifically mean doctrine, yet Presbyterianism has always been characterized by the main line position in doctrine. It stands and has always stood for fundamental Christianity. It stands for those great attitudes which have been characteristic of most of the ^{Christian} great/denominations through the ages. It is not a