

Senator Sam Ervin Says

WASHINGTON—The Senate Subcommittee on Separation of Powers, of which I am chairman, is studying the functioning of the United States Supreme Court and its role in interpreting the Constitution. The hearings on the court are a part of a series of studies by the subcommittee on the operation of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the federal government under their respective constitutional powers.

What is important about these hearings is that they deal with a fundamental problem of government which has plagued every generation of Americans. Simply put, the Constitution divided the powers of government into fragments and set up a system of "checks and balances" to prevent the usurpation of the liberties of the people. In practice, it has seldom worked anywhere near perfectly. There has been a

see-saw battle for power by the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, and in the process the presidency, the Congress and the courts have alternately had periods of strength and weakness depending upon the ascendancy or decendency of their roles at a given time. The pendulum of power is always moving. Indeed, the doctrine of the separation of powers is calculated to try to keep government upon an even keel as is humanly possible.

So in this day there is much nationwide concern about the functioning of the Supreme Court. It is said by many that the court has assumed a position of judicial superiority out of keeping with its constitutional role. An increasing body of public opinion holds that the court has entered the legislative sphere under the guise of

handing down judicial opinions about individual cases. Indeed, members of the Supreme Court have said as much upon occasion in their written opinions.

With increasing frequency of late, Congress has become concerned about the tendency of the court to enter "the political thickets" instead of confining its opinions to matters of law. Often, too, the court has created elaborate rules, which Congress has thereafter seen fit to examine during its consideration of legislation upon the same subject. Crime control legislation which recently passed the Congress is an example of this kind. Title II of the omnibus crime control bill said in effect that the Supreme Court had gone too far in establishing rules which protected the law violator at the expense of society.

This is the nature of the crisis of confidence in the court. It is of a magnitude rarely equaled in its history. What the subcommittee seeks to do, however, is not to launch a vindictive attack upon "the Warren Court" or its decisions. Rather the subcommittee is seeking to make some observations that will define the bounds of the constitutional powers of the three branches of government. The purpose of this study is in reality an attempt to find ways to strengthen our constitutional system at a time when Americans are questioning it to an intense degree.

The subcommittee, in receiving the testimony of a number of renowned and knowledgeable students of the Supreme Court and its role in our government, seeks to deal with constitutional processes and how well they are working. The task of defining the limits of power of the three coordinate branches of the federal government is surely a thankless one, but it is a necessary one if our government is to endure.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

PATIENCE AND PRAYER

International Sunday School Lesson for June 30

Memory Selection: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."—James 5:16.

Lesson Text: James 4:13 to 5:20.

Today, in studying the Book of James, we analyze the basis of our prayers—whether they are a true communing with God, or whether they are prompted (as is too often the case) by our urgent, often spasmodic, needs on a personal basis.

We are all too prone—in the few minutes we are wont to devote to introspection in our busy lives—to regard prayer as something to be called upon to influence God to grant our dearest wish. We lose sight of the fact that prayer should be rooted in a sincere desire to commune with God, as His servants; that our desires—like our lives—should be governed by His will, for He is wiser and more far-seeing than we.

If our prayers are worthy, He will answer them in His own time, and His own way. We will have, many times, to learn patience while we wait for His divine guidance—no easy lesson for impatient humans.

Basically, to be patient (in the Christian sense of the word) is to persevere, to refuse to give up. Everything in God's universe has its order; the trees will not bear fruit until it has flowered, and the season for the fruiting is ripe. We will not come to the fullest extent of our maturity, both as persons and as Christians, until we have been imbued with the Spirit.

The prophets of Biblical time were the epitome of patience and forbearance; they heard, and they did the Lord's bidding; they warned the people of the consequences of their iniquities, and they foretold the rewards that would be theirs if they lived a Godly life. They suffered many injustices, imprisonment and sometimes death for their pains. But they held fast to the bidding of God.

The "patience that was Job's" is a good illustration of the meaning here, for Job endured his afflictions long after a lesser man would have given up. Jesus, too, exhorted his Disciples to be patient, to await His second coming, warning, however, that no man could know the day or the hour that this would come about; they were, nevertheless, to live their lives in keeping with this expectation, that they would be ready to receive Him, and be worthy.

Man's understanding is limited; therefore if the early Christians labored under the impression that the second advent of Christ would occur in their time, we should understand their lack of understanding. Nevertheless, the exhortation to live Godly lives holds as true for us today as it did for them. We are to persevere in our waiting; and in the meantime we are to adhere firmly to the principles which Christ's life on earth personified.

Make Church - Going A Habit . . .

Love is trust. It is belief. It is faith, and like faith it is the substance of all things hoped for. Faith is a young man and woman standing before the altar to be united in holy matrimony. It is a little child holding his mother's hand. It is a patient looking into the eyes of the doctor. It is a mother or father sadly waving goodbye to a son, off to war.

Faith is all this and more! It is trust in divine providence, a belief in joyful reward. It is all mankind kneeling before God in quiet prayer . . . at home . . . in church . . . or under the canopy of heaven.

Church is for all of us—a place to strengthen, to increase, to confirm our faith. You can make your faith stronger by going to church this Sunday.



"In Thee Have I Hoped...."

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Sunday Deuteronomy 10:12-22	Monday Isaiah 62:1-5	Tuesday Jeremiah 2:26-37	Wednesday Romans 5:1-11	Thursday Ephesians 3:14-21	Friday Hebrews 11:1-7	Saturday Revelation 21:1-8
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