

Religious Emphasis Week Observed

THE PASTOR' PEN
JOHN S. FARRAR

A real Christian student is a growing student. He is one whose faith and devotion are ever upward reaching. His capacity to worship and serve is ever increasing. Such a Christian student grows in his appreciation of what is pure and proper in the life of divine worship. I have just come upon an article by Sterling L. Price wherein he reminds us of some uncouth and non-Christian acts which pass off as a part of worship. I am placing the entire article below as it appeared in NEWSLETTER DIGEST, published by the Texas Baptist Student Union.

DELIVER ME!

Normally I am a quiet, peaceful personality who lives in a realm of more or less status quo; but during the past few years there has been building up within me a pressure that needs to be let loose, or various memos of my anatomy will be found strewn all over the state of Texas. The cause or all this unrest in my otherwise harmless soul is the utter ignoring of the meaning of true religious worship in our churches.

Here is one who has come to the house of God to worship bearing his motors at a rapid pace, chewing at least one stick of gum—perhaps more—while he joins in the singing of, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY." I cannot conceive of a mood bought and redeemed soul, coming to the house of God to worship him who is creator of all and saviour of all believers, grinding away on a wad of gum like a cow chewing her cud. The tragedy of it all is that when these people are approached about the matter of chewing gum in the house of God they look at you and say, "You say you're a spiritual rocker and mumo something like, "It's a free world, ain't it?"

Oh, yes! I forgot to mention the victorious crew-cut soul who manages to pop his gum at intervals and becomes thereof the pride of the balcony.

The other bane of my existence is that "buddy-buddy-with God" cut which is so evident in popular religious songs. "The Man Upstairs," I note with disgust, has a successor in a square-dance tune with the words, "Have faith, hope and charity, that's how to live successfully. How do I know? The Bible tells me so."

You cannot treat God this way and get away with it. He will have the honor due him and it will have to be in language and song that are spiritually becoming. Another horrible example of church songs in the other line is, "I'm a honeymoon man with Jesus." And then there is the gem about, "The bells of Hell go ting-a-ling; where, O Death, is thy sting-a-ling?" I am preparing myself now for the inevitable, which I suppose will be, "The Jesus Bounce." I am not a prude, or at least I do not think I am; but it is my honest conviction that we must return to a true, reverent, holy worship of Almighty God, whose we are; and that does not include the grinding of our bicuspids and the singing of ditties.

Students Deliver Talks On Religious Emphasis Week

A summary of the Religious Emphasis Week, February 20-24, was given on the radio program from Gardner-Webb College on Friday, February 24. Jimmy Dicks gave the introduction and conclusion, and Sandra Ammons, Anita Hoyle, and Charles Mosley summarized the various phases of the week's open forum programs.

The Religious Emphasis Week was planned with three objectives in mind. These were: That each student would come to a closer and more personal relationship with his God, that each student would, at the end of the week, know more fully in what vocation he and his God would engage, and that each student would grow during the week by the enlightenment the week offered.

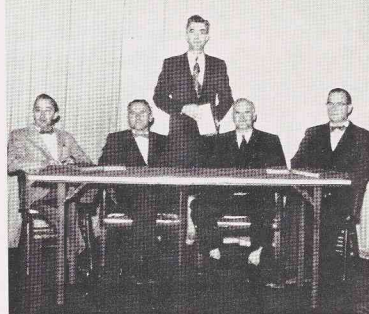
Dr. Elliott began the week by delivering on Monday morning the address "Living in Times of Crises." In this address he said, "We are dealing with principles, not God methods." We carried the thought in mind during the entire week, because we were not trying to solve any problems or pin-point answers to any questions, but we were enlighten the students, to get everyone to thinking about his discussion questions, and to draw his own conclusions and evaluations.

Three sophomores, Mark Stone, Harold Long, and Boyce Freeman,

addressed the student body on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings respectively. Open forum discussions were held on Monday through Thursday evenings with faculty members serving as panelists. The addresses and discussions dealt with the student's responsibilities in discipleship and stewardship.

The students' topics were "What Does It Mean To Be a Christian," "Every Christian is To Be a Christian," and "A Christian in Search of Health and Happiness." The open forum themes were "The Christian Attitude in Race Relations," "What Are My Moral Responsibilities To My Fellowmen and To My God," "What Should Come First? or What Emphasis Should Be Placed on Religious, Social, and Intellectual Life?" and "Christ in My Vocation."

The Rev. Gordon Weekley, Jr., Pastor of the Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, concluded the Religious Emphasis Week on Friday morning with his address "A Vision Worth Following." The Rev. Weekley said, "A life is not worth living unless it has a guiding purpose." He also said that a Christian who thinks that life is worth living (1) believes that nothing matters except the will of God, (2) believes he is fighting on a winning side, and (3) is willing to pay the price of Christian living.



Pictured above is one of the panels responsible for the success of Religious Emphasis Week. From left to right they are: Dr. Dr. Boy Elliott, W. Lawson Allen, Dean J. O. Terrell, Dr. Robert Dyer, and in the background is Moderator William F. Troutman.

EMPHASIS PLACED ON RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL LIFE

SANDRA AMMONS

When I think of what the Religious Week has meant to me, I first recall the periods of quiet meditation that preceded the programs. In these silent moments of worship one could relax from the toil of the day and focus his whole attention on how he is living for his Lord and Saviour.

One of the discussions that stands out most in my mind is "What should come first? or What Emphasis Should be Placed on Religious, Social, and Intellectual Life?" We as college students realize that our primary reason in attending college is to get an education, but should be place all of our attention on the intellectual life? How can we answer this question in the light of the scriptures? "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you!" Our real purpose as Christians in obtaining college training is revealed in the scripture which says, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." We can glorify God through our studies by practicing the things we learn in service for Him. Therefore, let us concede that intellectual life is important, but this is not enough. Our education is not an end in itself but a means by which to glorify God.

One might ask, "Should we put the major emphasis on our religious life?" Of what does our religious life consist? Is it merely attending as many services as possible or does it permeate everything we do? Too often we are guilty of being only active—rushing from one meeting to another—benefiting little. We should attend services wholeheartedly and really worship. Our religious life consists of a daily life—what we are—not how many services we attend.

Emphasis should also be placed on our social life. In joining clubs, fraternities, and other social organizations, one should ask himself these questions—What does this organization stand for?—How will it affect me and my Christian witness if I participate in its activities?

Because man is a composite being he has a religious, social, and intellectual life. These phases of man's life cannot be completely

separated. Our social life has a direct bearing on our religious influence. Both of these add to our intellect. To be the kind of person God wants, man must mold the phases of his life into one complete life, fully dedicated to the service of God. A quotation from Richter tells of this kind of life: "Life, like the waters of the seas, freshens only when it ascends toward heaven."

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

ANITA HOYLE

Religious Emphasis Week has meant a great deal to my Christian growth. Through the informative and stimulating discussions my Christian convictions have been strengthened and I feel that Christ truly has been present to help me grow more fully and completely the great truths that the speakers have put forth.

One particular aspect that has meant a lot to me is that a Christian student's relationship to his fellow men. My belief that the foundation to better social relation is brotherly love has been confirmed substantially in my mind by the remarks of the speakers of the week. The second of the Ten Commandments clearly states that we are to love our neighbors as ourself. This alone is evidence that the first obligation of a Christian toward his fellow man is to glorify God through Christian love. I believe that the other points that have been brought out concerning a Christian's relationship to his fellow man have been such that they will fall in line in the proper perspective if we first consider love for our fellow man.

We believe that Christians are obligated to non-Christians to win them to Christ. In fulfilling the great commission we must carry the gospel to others, not only to those in foreign lands, but also those who live next door to us. Our lives must be such that they can see Christ living in us everyday. Through prayer and witnessing it is my belief that we as Christians are to win our fellowmen to Christ.

Christ said in Matt. 5:13-14 that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Salt flavors, preserves, and heals. We as Christians flavor the lives of others if we have a strong witness. If we win others to Christ they are preserved through eternity. When one becomes a Christian he then is healed of the wounds of sin. This means to me that a Christian is to help and serve his fellowmen. Christ did this

when he came to earth and we are to be Christian in our daily life.

To receive the fullness of Christ should be his best in whatever he undertakes. This means that he would be socially graceful, ever courteous and helpful in his fellowmen, winnier in business, school, recreation, or in whatever capacity he may find himself. Christ was a servant, a teacher, a healer and a helper. He never criticized a person who was laden down with sin, but rather helped him. Since we as his followers are to be like him, we too are to help rather than to criticize those who are not Christians. A true Christian will try to adjust himself to those things over which he has no control, and to change the things that he can improve.

ENLIGHTENMENT — TO PERSONALITY

CHARLES MOSLEY

This Religious Emphasis Week has meant a great enlightenment to me personally. I feel that all who have attended the services have likewise been enlightened. As young people in the world today many questions come to our minds concerning our relationship with our Creator. Is Christ truly the answer for the crises in our world today? What are our moral responsibilities to God? What emphasis should be placed on religion in our lives? As Jim has already stated the purpose for this week has been to show us principles rather than methods. We must know and understand the principles in order to formulate methods. The panel programs and speakers this week have so stimulated our thinking as to help us formulate in our minds these much needed answers.

President Elliott spoke to us Monday about the crises in the world today; of the revolutions that are taking place in our time. The Christ of Calvary is the only answer that can prove sufficient. We must make Christianity and democracy work. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." Certainly the salvation of the world today is Christ. We all have certain responsibilities to our Saviour. By meeting them we grow in our faith. We must live up to standards set by Christ while he lived on earth. We are to give Christ first place in our lives. "Christ is all that matters for Christ is in all." We cannot separate our religious life from the other phases of life, but they all must go hand in hand. This relationship with God must be a continuous one; one that grows closer throughout our lives. This relationship is to be stimulated and motivated by the love of God. I feel that this week has helped to better my relationship with God, and we pray that many have grown in their Christian lives as a result of this Religious Emphasis Week.

The students supported the week with prayers, attendance, and questions. The faculty members gave us their support and whole-hearted cooperation in attendance and in participation on the panels. We of Gardner-Webb feel that the Lord has greatly blessed us. We have come to realize anew the importance of turning our hearts minds, and most of all, our souls upward to our Maker and Creator. Prov. 3:4-5 says that those who have arisen through our Religious Emphasis Week in that a person must "Trust in the Lord with thine own understanding; and lean not unto thine own understanding; in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."