

# 60 - SECOND SERMONS

By FRED DODGE

Text: "Annihilate desires and you annihilate the mind" —Helvetius.

A grumpy husband who was more interested in his newspaper than in conversation with his wife, growled,

"There you go again. You're always wanting something you haven't got."

"Well," inquired his wife, sweetly, "What else can I want for?"

Unsatisfied wants stimulate progress. When a child wants greatly, he strives greatly and satisfies his wants. But when an indulgent parent satisfies his child's wants without any effort by the child, the parent has robbed his child of a precious freedom. Everyone knows that un-

less we strive to achieve our desires, we grow weak. If we kill all desire, we destroy the mind which desire must stimulate. Without desire, the mind dies and there is no progress.

That which is true of parents is true of governments. This nation was founded on the idea that men should be free to satisfy their own desires, gaining for, as Lord Macaulay put it, "industry and intelligence their natural reward, idleness and folly their natural punishment." There was never a hint that government was obligated to see that every citizen was satisfied.

Over-indulgent parents and paternalistic governments bring the same result. When parents and governments annihilate desire they annihilate the mind and the nation.

## THE CONSTITUTION

By WILLIAM D. FULLER

The following address was delivered over radio station WCDJ during the observance of Constitution week in Edenton, which was sponsored by the Edenton Tea Party Chapter of the DAR.

This being Constitution Week, it is fitting and proper that we stop in our daily task and give some consideration to the fundamental principles set forth by our forebears and under which our government has functioned for a period approaching close to two hundred years. It is true that most countries have a framework of laws under which their government functions; but it is believed that our country has the distinction of functioning and continuing to function under the original principles as set forth longer than any other country.

It is contended that our government could operate just as efficiently under the first six articles of the constitution as we do under the twenty-two amendments; further, that the twenty-two amendments do not set forth any principles but rather are acts of legislation, which, under the powers granted under the first six articles could have been enacted as legislation by Congress rather than as amendments to the constitution. In fact, it is believed by some students of government that if we continue to amend the constitution for every fancied need that arises the constitution will become a hedge of purely legislative enactments, subject to all kinds of interpretations by the Supreme Court.

The Constitution is not law in the ordinary sense of the word, but rather, a set of principles within which the framework of our government has been created. The first three articles of the Constitution set forth the principles under which the legislative, the executive and the judicial branches of our government are to be set up. These articles contain major conditions as to their creation, election or appointment, and the broad powers under which each branch of the government shall function.

The fourth article sets forth the relationship of each state to another and to the Federal Government. It further provides for the privileges and immunities of citizens and for the formation of new states and the jurisdiction over territories before they become states.

The fifth article provides the method and manner of amending the constitution.

The sixth article is important; first it provides for the recognition of debts and engagements entered into by the government

stitution. But what is important in the sixth article is that it states that the constitution, as a set of principles, and the laws of the United States and treaties entered into shall be the supreme law of the land; further, it provides that all elected or appointed officers of the Federal as well as the State Governments, executive and judicial, shall be oath or affirmation be bound to support the Federal constitution. The seventh article only provides for the ratification of the articles of the constitution.

These are the first six articles of the constitution under which it is claimed that the government could function without any additional amendments; although exception can be made to this statement in at least one or two instances: the thirteenth amendment providing for the abolition of slavery and the sixteenth amendment providing for the imposition of what is now known as the income tax. Then the seventeenth amendment provides for the direct election of Senators rather than by appointment by the legislatures of the various states as provided for in the first article of the constitution.

Since the ratification of the constitution there have been between forty-five hundred and five thousand proposed amendments to the constitution, some of them very foolish. The restraint exercised by Congress in considering proposed amendments is remarkable when you consider that out of a total of some five thousand proposed amendments only twenty-two have been passed and ratified.

While the first article of the constitution empowers the Congress with the general right of all legislation necessary for the functioning of the government, nevertheless the Congress wanted to be sure that the inalienable rights of all citizens should not be restricted or infringed upon and thus came about the passing of the first ten amendments, proposed in the session of Congress in 1789 and ratified in 1791. The first ten amendments have been known as the Bill of Rights or the Magna Carta of the people. The most important right defined is the right of religion, speech and of the press. The one we are most familiar with today is the fifth amendment, the right not to be compelled to be a witness against oneself.

With the exception of the thirteenth, prohibiting slavery; the sixteenth amendment, providing for the federal income tax, and the seventeenth amendment providing for the direct election of U. S. Senators, the other amendments were unnecessary and could have been covered by the appropriate legislation under the power granted to Congress under the first article of the constitution.

The sixteenth and including the twenty-second amendments have been passed and ratified since the turn of the century.

Certainly the eighteenth amendment was a woeful attempt to create moral character by the prohibition of the use of liquor. And, of course, there had to be an amendment repealing it. It is contended that the woman suffrage amendment was unnecessary as the various state legislatures had the right to define the qualifications of voters. The twentieth amendment does away with the lame duck session of Congress and changes the date of the term of office of the President. Of course, the twenty-first is an amendment to repeal an amendment. The twenty-second amendment was passed in too great a hurry and already there is talk of repealing or amending it further, as there is a strong feeling that there should not be any such limitation on the terms of office to be held by any President.

There are three broad general problems to be considered in connection with our Constitution: First: There should be a greater lapse of time between the proposal, passage and ratification of any proposed amendment. There should be more debate and public discussion and the consideration of other means of accomplishing the desired results rather than by amendment. Second: The interpretation of the constitution by the U. S. Supreme Court. Is the Supreme Court deciding cases on the basis of social expediency rather than on the basis of already established principles of law. Third: The mis-use and abuse of principles set forth in the constitution, such as the over-worked principle of self-incrimination. This presumed mis-use can have far reaching effects if carried to extremes. Any witness in a criminal case might use the fifth amendment in refusing to testify and convictions in criminal cases might become impossible.

These are only a few remarks on our constitution, which is worthy of our study and respect twice within and because of the principles enunciated therein we are a stable and responsible government. Since the writing of the above few remarks, there have been introduced in Congress three proposed new amendments with every likelihood of their being approved and submitted to the states. These proposed amendments are as follows: I. Repeal or amendment of the Continued on Page 8—Section 2



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# Make Church - Going a Habit

## Sunday School Lesson

"YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES"

International Sunday School Lesson for October 4, 1959.

Memory Selection: "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." —(Acts 1:8)

Lesson Text: Acts 1.

The aim of today's lesson is to help adults recognize their need for God's power in their lives and the necessity to witness individually and collectively to that power.

In our Scriptural studies for today we read of the resurrection of Jesus, and of his presenting himself before his disciples. He spoke with them, charging them to be his witnesses, and carry his story to all of the people. Jesus was making the transition from his bodily presence among them to his spiritual presence within them. There is no record that the disciples found any great difficulty in making the change from accepting the reality of the physical

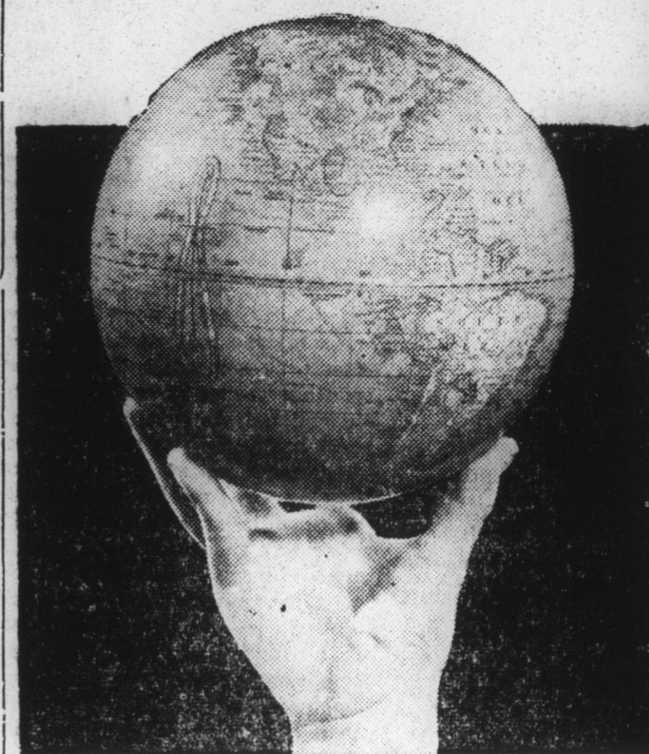
absence of Jesus at the time they accepted the spiritual living presence of their risen Lord.

Jesus' disciples witnessed the fact that Jesus lived. They witnessed to the fact that Jesus died. They attested to the resurrection of Jesus.

The results of this early witness of the Christians is a matter of recorded history. The Book of Acts tells how the gospel spread and overran the opposition of organized religion and paganized government. The primary factor in this spread of the Christian faith was the inflexible and intolerant zeal of the first Christians. They would make no compromises of their belief in one God—the God of Jesus. It was Christ only for the Christians in their witness. They would allow other gods no room in their lives or their theology. This made for a purity of faith and an integrity of witness which alone can assure growth.

The Christian witness to the doctrine of the future life helped the growth of the Church and today it still does. In Biblical days many Christians were slaves, but they found a spiritual freedom which promised full pardon and deliverance in the Continued on Page 8—Section 2

## IT'S A SMALL WORLD



Ever run into a friend in Tokyo, or meet one of your neighbors in Amsterdam? Maybe not—but such things are happening every day!

It makes you stop and think—the way this world is shrinking. It makes you wish that the men and women who live on opposite sides of the globe had more things in common.

There can be no more unifying force in the world than a common belief in God. And toward that ideal we are rapidly progressing. Christians the world over are feeling and expressing their unity of faith and purpose.

Sunday is World-Wide Communion Sunday. On that day, within the space of a few short hours, Christians in every land will reverently participate in the Lord's Supper which has been a mark of Christian faith for almost two thousand years.

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### THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH.

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Psalms	89	11-13
Monday	1st Peter	3	14-14
Tuesday	Daniel	4	1-3
Wednesday	John	6	26-29
Thursday	Psalms	133	1-3
Friday	Matthew	26	26-29
Saturday	Psalms	66	1-4



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