

# 60-SECOND SERMONS

By FRED DODGE

Text: "Security is mostly a superstition." — Helen Keller.

Two caterpillars once felt the urge to crawl out on a twig and spin cocoons. As they prepared for the sleep which would precede their transformations, a butterfly fluttered by. One caterpillar, watching the butterfly soar and dip in uncertain flight, called to the other:

"I'm glad I'm fastened to this tree. You'll never catch me going up in one of those things."

## THE CRUEL CENTURY

By HEINZ ROLLMAN, Waynesville, N. C.

Unless we use the last forty years of this century in a better way than we have used the first 60 years of it, this century will rightfully go down in history as the most cruel one since the birth of Christ. Never before in the history of mankind have so many shown so much cruelty and so much contempt for their fellowman as in this century. Rarely in the history of mankind have so many cared so little about what happens to the other fellow. Rarely before in any of the other nineteen centuries have so many cared so little about the Ten Commandments.

It is true that we have industrialized part of the world. It is true that child labor has been abolished in a few countries. It is true that malaria in many parts of the world does not exist any more. We have the stuff to create daily headlines, but we are not building and we are not creating. We are not consolidating, nor are we moderating.

So far, this century has already seen two bloody world wars, far more cruel than anything heretofore known in history—maybe not the individual action of each soldier, but collectively the cruelty has not been surpassed since never before did so many children lose their fathers or wives their husbands before have dictators like Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini, and hands in such a short time. Eron been able to inflict so much cruelty on so many opponents in more fiendish ways in so short a time.

Billions are being spent to send satellites, dog houses and similar contraptions into outer space, while half the world goes to bed hungry every night. Never in the history of mankind have so many professed to believe in a certain religion and never have so many lived up less to what they professed to believe in. Never has the industrial or farm machinery of the so-called developed nations been able to produce more, yet the distribution is no better than in the days of Columbus. For what is the sense of being able to produce and produce and produce, if at the same time we are not able to make a paying customer out of every human being?

find that security is most superstition. Helen Keller added, "Security does not exist in nature nor do the children of men as a whole experience it."

Striving for security, however, is necessary. Without it there would be no achievement. Yet we are most secure when we accept the fact that security is a mirage. When we admit that change is always with us; that today's security can be tomorrow's insecurity, we build a resilience that makes us secure. Change does not surprise, shock nor devastate us. We expect it. Then we are as close to security as this wonderful, growing world will permit.

ing anywhere in the world? Never has so much money been foolishly wasted, both on armaments and charity, in the form of foreign aid and other gimmicks as in this century, without that it has helped humanity in any way.

Shall we muddle through the remaining 40 years of this century the way we have gone through the first 60 years? Is there any hope that something may be changed? Yes, there is. Too many of the "haves" have become worried about anything that could smack of revolution, since this is associated with the rolling of heads and, therefore, everyone who does not want to be considered an outcast of society talks about evolution. Evolution is all good and well; heads should certainly never roll, blood should never flow to bring about a change, but if we don't adjust our emotions and our mental abilities to the scientific and technical progress that is being made, humanity cannot keep up with itself.

"Everything has to go slow and easy, and for heaven's sake, let's not ever take any chances with anything." The only thing that is being done fast is the killing of people in wars and under dictatorships. "As to the rest, let's make as many 5, 10, 20, and 50-year plans as we possibly can; let's appoint as many committees all over the world as we have room to put them." In other words, let's pass the buck not just to the other fellow, let's pass it on to the next generation and the generations thereafter.

Where then lies the hope for a change? Who can save the last remaining four decades of this century? Basically, only the United States. This is the first time in the history of mankind that one nation has been singled out against its will, and has been appointed the leading nation of the world, and we are the leading nation of the world even for our enemies, communist Russia and communist China. England in her heyday wanted to be considered the leading nation of the world, and did everything possible to hold that title. It slipped away; we got it against our will and we don't know what to do with it. We are like the young college-educated fellow who grew up in a vacuum. His father dies and the fellow finds himself one fine morning at the head of a multi-million dollar corporation, and he is unable to give this corporation any direction. He is unable to continue to breathe life into the people and into the business. Before

long the family sells out to a publicly-owned corporation, who appoints a professional manager. We lack direction, and the world does not have any idea what we stand for, and we say one thing and do another thing. We talk about the oppressed people of the world, and we proclaim every day another "day"—either "Captive Nations Day" or "Miss America Day", and yet the world witnesses the spectacle of a majority in our own nation withholding equal facilities or equal opportunities for a minority. That we have reasons for doing so we understand. But unless we can "sell" these reasons to the people in other countries, they are just not good enough if we want to live in peace, respect, and friendship with the rest of the world.

We talk about Christianity and fail to understand that these are empty words to a hungry and starving world when, at the same time, they know that our \$10-billion farm surplus is rotting away. We probably produce as many great men today in our nation as we have in the last century, but possibly the great men do not get that same chance any more. We want to elect people that are absolutely "safe". Safe for what? Safe in letting us sleep? Safe in not troubling our delicate peace of mind? Why make an effort for peace of mind when we can get it for a dollar out of a bottle, either in liquid form or in the form of tranquilizer pills? Never in the history of mankind have so few needed so much liquor and so many tranquilizer pills every day. Does this not show what fun we are missing in life? Does this not show how so many of us are running away from reality instead of facing life, grabbing it and living it while we are able? This world is not going to wait forever for us to wake up to our obligations if we keep on running away from them also in the next four decades. This world is going to appoint some other nation as leader of the world. How we will fare under such circumstances is hard to say. Whether we will be able to enjoy all the "comforts of home" in the way we have been doing it lately, and enjoying it, is another question.

But, whatever difficulties these two disciples encountered in their efforts to spread Christianity, it cannot be denied that the church at Antioch was an active one. When we recall how

**Obvious Reason**  
Little Betty was crying bitterly. Her mother asked what was the matter.  
"Boo hoo! My new shoes hurt me."  
"Well, no wonder! You have them on the wrong feet," replied her mother.  
Betty kept crying and would not be comforted. "I haven't any other feet," she protested.  
Take care how thou offendest men raised from low conditions.  
—Thomas Fuller.

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# Make Church - Going a Habit

## Sunday School Lesson

**PIONEERS FOR CHRIST**  
International Sunday School Lesson for January 3, 1960

Memory Selection: "Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations." (Luke 24:47).

Lesson Text: Acts 13.  
Today's lesson is the first in a three-session unit on "The Church Shares Its Concern." The aim of this unit is to show that the concern of the gospel should lead existing churches to reach out to others with the good news of God's love in Christ.

In our Scriptures for today we read of Barnabas and Saul (later called Paul) teaching the Holy Gospel in the synagogue of the Jews in Antioch. We read, further, of how, consumed by jealousy of the crowds that gathered to hear the Apostles preach, the Jews turned away, and Barnabas and Paul turned to teaching the Gentiles.

But, whatever difficulties these two disciples encountered in their efforts to spread Christianity, it cannot be denied that the church at Antioch was an active one. When we recall how

## Chowan County Churches

- EDENTON BAPTIST**  
REV. R. N. CARROLL, Pastor  
Sunday School at 9:45 A. M.  
Morning worship service, 11 A. M.  
Training Union at 6:30 P. M.  
Evening service at 7:30 o'clock.  
Mid-week prayer service Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.
- GREAT HOPE BAPTIST**  
REV. HENRY V. NAPIER, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10 A. M.  
Morning worship second and fourth Sundays at 11 o'clock.  
Evening worship first and fourth Sundays at 8 o'clock.  
Prayer service Wednesday at 8 P. M.
- ROCKY HOCK BAPTIST**  
THURMAN W. ALLRED, Pastor  
Sunday School Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.  
Morning worship at 11 o'clock.  
Training Union at 7 P. M.  
Evening worship at 8 o'clock.
- EDENTON PRESBYTERIAN**  
REV. JAMES MACKENZIE, Pastor  
Sunday School Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.  
Morning worship at 11 o'clock.  
Meeting—all teen-age girls—Sunday, 6:30 P. M.  
Christian Service Brigade—all teen-age boys—7 P. M.  
Mid-week Prayer Service—Wednesday night at 7:30 o'clock.
- FIRST CHRISTIAN**  
REV. E. C. ALEXANDER, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10 A. M.  
Morning worship at 11 o'clock.  
Evening service at 6:30 P. M.  
Evening worship at 7:30 o'clock.  
Wednesday evening service at 7:30 o'clock.
- ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC**  
REV. C. F. HILL, Pastor  
Sunday Masses 8 and 11 A. M.  
Confessions before every Mass.  
Sunday School 11:45 Sunday A. M.  
Convert Instructions or private consultation by appointment. Phone 2617.
- CENTER HILL BAPTIST**  
REV. HENRY V. NAPIER, Pastor  
Morning worship at 11 o'clock first and third Sundays.  
Sunday School at 10 A. M.  
Evening worship at 8 o'clock second and fourth Sundays.  
Prayer service Thursday at 8 P. M.
- EDENTON METHODIST**  
REV. RALPH FOWLKES, Pastor  
Sunday School Sunday morning at 9:45 o'clock.  
Prayer service Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.
- MACEDONIA BAPTIST**  
REV. L. C. CHANDLER, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10 A. M.  
Prayer service every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and every Sunday night at 7:30 o'clock.  
Prayer meeting Wednesday night at 7:30 o'clock.
- WARWICK BAPTIST**  
REV. R. B. COTTINGHAM, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10 A. M.  
Prayer service at 11 A. M.  
Bible study at 7 P. M.  
Prayer service Thursday nights at 8 o'clock.
- SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL**  
REV. GEORGE B. HOLMES, Rector  
9:30 A. M. Church School.  
10:00 A. M. Adult Bible Class.  
11:00 A. M. Morning Worship.  
7:30 P. M. Young Churchmen.  
Wednesday, 10:30 A. M. Holy Communion.
- BALLARD'S BRIDGE BAPTIST**  
REV. LAMAR SENTELL, Pastor  
Sunday School Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.  
Prayer services at 11 A. M. and 8 P. M.  
Prayer meeting Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.
- CHURCH OF GOD**  
REV. JOHN MARTIN, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10 A. M.  
Prayer service at 11 A. M.  
W.P.E. Sunday at 7 P. M.  
Evening worship at 7:30 o'clock.
- JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
B. F. LONG, Congregation Servant  
Bible study at 9:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon at Kingdom Hall.  
Bible study Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.  
Service meeting and ministry school Friday nights at 8 o'clock.
- ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
REV. AND MRS. OTTIS DENTON, Pastors  
Gems of Devotion Broadcast Sunday at 9 A. M.  
Sunday School at 9:45 A. M.  
Morning worship at 11 o'clock.  
Children's Church at 6:30 P. M.  
E. A. service at 8:30 P. M.  
Wednesday service at 7:30 P. M.  
Wednesday prayer meeting at 7:30 P. M.
- VEOPIM BAPTIST**  
Sunday School Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.  
Prayer services every first and third Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.
- EVANS METHODIST**  
REV. FRANK PORTESQUE, Pastor  
Prayer services every first and third Sundays at 9:30 A. M.
- CENTER HILL METHODIST**  
REV. FRANK PORTESQUE, Pastor  
Prayer services every first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
- COLORED CHURCHES**  
**PROVIDENCE BAPTIST**  
REV. F. H. LAQUARDE  
Sunday School at 9:30 A. M.  
Morning service at 11 o'clock.  
Evening service at 7:30 o'clock.  
Prayer meeting Wednesday night at 7:30 o'clock.  
Young people's and senior choir practice Friday nights at 8 o'clock.  
Men's Bible Class meets Monday night at 8 o'clock.
- ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL**  
REV. CLYDE BEATTY, Minister  
First Sunday at 11 A. M. Holy Communion and sermon.  
Second Sunday at 9 A. M. Holy Communion.  
Third Sunday at 9 A. M. Holy Communion.  
Fourth Sunday at 11 A. M. morning prayer and sermon.  
Sunday School each Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.
- CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**  
REV. S. B. WATKINS, Pastor  
Every second and fourth Sunday, Pastor's Day.  
Every first and third Sunday, Church Day.  
Sunday School at 11 A. M. to 1 P. M.  
Prayer and Bible Band Tuesday night at 8 o'clock.  
Wednesday night choir practice at 7:30 o'clock.  
Thursday night choir practice at 7:30 o'clock.  
Friday night Pastor's Aid Society at 8 o'clock.  
Saturday night young people's Bible quiz and recreation.
- WARREN BAPTIST**  
REV. J. E. TILLET, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10 A. M.  
Prayer service at 11:30 A. M.  
Evening service at 7:30 P. M.  
Women's Educational and Mission Union meets every fourth Sunday after the morning service.
- WELCH'S CHAPEL BAPTIST**  
REV. W. H. DAVIS, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10 A. M.  
Prayer service first Sunday at 11:30 A. M.
- ST. JOHN BAPTIST**  
REV. E. E. MORGAN, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10 A. M.  
Services every first and third Sundays at 12 o'clock noon.
- PINEY GROVE A. M. E. Z.**  
REV. M. H. EBON, Pastor
- UNION GROVE A. M. E. Z.**  
REV. J. E. GORDON, Pastor
- RYAN GROVE BAPTIST**  
REV. M. A. RIDDICK, Pastor
- GALE STREET BAPTIST**  
REV. RAYMOND A. MORRIS, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10 A. M.  
Services every second and fourth Sunday at 11 A. M.  
Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 8 o'clock.
- ST. LUKE CHRISTIAN**  
REV. KELLY GOLDMAN, Pastor
- JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
ELDER J. C. HALL, Pastor
- CENTER HILL BAPTIST**  
REV. H. C. SAUNDERS, Pastor
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REV. R. M. McNAIR, Pastor
- KADESH A. M. E. ZION**  
REV. A. WILLIAMS, Pastor  
Sunday School at 9:30 A. M.  
Morning worship at 11:30 o'clock.  
Evening service at 7:30 o'clock.
- PLEASANT GROVE A. M. E. Z.**  
REV. G. L. SCOTT, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10 A. M.  
Morning worship service at 11 o'clock.  
Choir rehearsal Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.
- CANAAN TEMPLE A. M. E. Z.**  
REV. W. H. SESSOM, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10:15.  
Morning worship at 11:30 o'clock.  
Young People's meeting at 2 P. M.  
Evening service at 7:30 o'clock.  
Tuesday night first Senior Choir practice at 8 o'clock.  
Wednesday night second Senior Choir practice at 8 o'clock.
- HAWKINS CHAPEL A. M. E. Z.**  
REV. M. H. EBON, Pastor
- LOCUST GROVE A. M. E. Z.**  
REV. J. E. GORDON, Pastor



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| Day       | Book        | Chapter | Verses |
|-----------|-------------|---------|--------|
| Sunday    | Psalms      | 99      | 1-2    |
| Monday    | Psalms      | 77      | 13-14  |
| Tuesday   | Philippians | 2       | 12-13  |
| Wednesday | John        | 15      | 10-12  |
| Thursday  | Psalms      | 1       | 1-3    |
| Friday    | Epheians    | 5       | 1-2    |
| Saturday  | Romans      | 9       | 35-39  |

Come January first, you're going to get a present... a glorious present of 365 bright, uncluttered days.

What you do with them is largely up to you. Each day of the year is now a blank page in the notebook of your life — and only you can fill it.

Don't clutter up the first page by making a lot of useless resolutions. Instead — spend that time by going to church.

Turn to God the first day of the year, and stay with Him. Put your faith in Him, and in His church. With His help, you can make this year the finest one you've ever lived.

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