

Those Hated Christians

By TERRY JONES

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:10.

Are you considered a Christian? Stop and think about this. Are you considered as an honest person, do you wear a rosy smile most of the time, do people like you, are you a member of a church? If you can answer "yes" to just one or two of these questions then you may well be considered a Christian, but because you are considered a Christian by no means makes you one.

There is a great misconception today of what a Christian is. Christians are considered to be the people that at least partly uphold the moral laws in our society, they are the people that attend church pretty regularly. In other words they are the "good Jews" that people slap on the back because they are good for society. But this wasn't what Jesus considered His followers. Jesus implied that the people that follow Him will be

forced to take criticism, scorn and persecution, not just slaps on the back. Christians were supposed to be "in" the world but not "of" the world. They were not meant to compromise with the world but to condemn the corrupt ways of society so sharply that they themselves would be condemned. The type of character a Christian should develop cannot and will not be accepted by the world. And if your Christian character is accepted by the world then I dare say you don't have much Christian character. If you are a real Christian then there are going to be some that don't like you and will revile you and persecute you. But Jesus says that you are to be congratulated if your life draws scorn from the world for your reward is the Kingdom of Heaven. A good test of your Christian influence is to answer the following question. Do your friends know that you are a Christian?

Merry Hill Woman Killed On Highway

Mrs. Annie Sue Johnson, colored, 54 years old, wife of Daniel Johnson, Jr., of Merry Hill, died Saturday night, December 1, when struck by a car driven by Thomas Walton White, 21, of Hampton, Va., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. White of Merry Hill.

State Trooper Johnny Dickens said Mrs. Johnson had gotten out of a car and started across the road when an oncoming car struck her.

An inquest into the fatality, which is the 10th in Bertie County for the year, was set by Coroner Goodwin Byrd for Monday in the Court House at Windsor.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
"God the Only Cause and Creator" will be the subject of the Lesson-Sermon at Christian Science church services Sunday.

Scriptural readings will include these verses from Romans: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever." This correlative citation will be among those read from "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy (p. 275): "All substance, intelligence, wisdom, being, immortality, cause, and effect belong to God. These are His attributes, the eternal manifestations of the infinite divine Principle, Love."

STALLINGS CLAN GATHERS

The home of the Rev. and Mrs. Leon Freeman, Virginia Beach Boulevard, Norfolk, was the scene for the annual Turkey Day gathering and dinner of the late Rev. W. H. A. Stallings family.

Present for the sumptuous dinner and warm fellowship were the mother, Mrs. W. H. A. Stallings, Edenton; Mrs. Verta S. Pridden and son Barry Glenn of Weldon, N. C.; Mrs. Mignon S. Harrell and daughter Felicia; Mrs. Doris J. Harris and daughter Melody of Jamaica, N. Y.

Children unable to attend were Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Stallings and children, Marvin, Jr., and Yolande of Berkeley, California, and Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Millsap II and son Lonnie III of Los Angeles, California. Guests pres-

ent were Miss Virginia Cooke of Jamaica, N. Y., and Attorney James R. Walker, Jr., of Statesville, N. C.

Rocky Hock 4-H Club Is Planning Christmas Party December 19th

The Rocky Hock 4-H Club held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 28. The meeting opened by saying the pledge to the flag and the 4-H pledge. Everyone then repeated The Lord's Prayer.

Members discussed the Christmas party and decided to have it on the night of December 19. The following committees were selected for the party:

Decorating—Mary Ellen Ober, chairman, Sandra Harrell, Brenda Parrish, Susan Harrell, Eddie Summerlin, Jimmy Allred, Gene Harrell, Arlyn Bunch, Bob Bass, Scot Ober, Danny Long, and Phil Long.

Refreshments—Nancy Bass, chairman, Margaret Tynch, Mary Alice Tynch and Emily Bass.

Recreation—Carol Haste, chairman, Roy Harrell, Joe Bass, Ray Smith, Tommy Bass and Billy Nixon.

SENATOR Sam Ervin SAYS

Morganton — In a few weeks Congress will be considering the question of whether a Federal tax cut is to be granted. A Presidential Advisory Committee has recommended a \$10 billion tax cut "to strengthen the economy." The recommendation came on the day that Indian appealed to us for more arms, that our nation was having a showdown with Cuba over Russian bombers, and followed an announcement that our budget deficit for the current fiscal year would amount to \$7.8 billion. Fifty years ago such a recommendation would have been viewed with amazement. The fact that it was not last week is a commentary on our times.

Undoubtedly every taxpayer would welcome a tax cut, but a more fundamental question arises: can we spend more and pay that in addition to current deficits, the loss of revenue by such a tax cut would cause at least "appreciable deficits" in the

Federal budget. Tax reform, tax cuts, and the cessation of deficit spending should be non-partisan matters for the country. No one should view these as easy to achieve.

The proposed tax cut as a matter of logic and common sense ought to be accompanied by a proposal that spending be curtailed. But no such corresponding proposal is voiced.

In my judgment, spending will be reduced only by a recognition of its necessity and by courageous action on the part of both the Executive Branch and the Congress. National defense and foreign policy determinations are preponderantly within the scope of Presidential responsibility. These are the areas of large spending as well as those programs proposed for the domestic economy. Sooner or later a realization will have to come that spending priorities will have to be established more rigidly than we have known in the last 33 years. Measures will have to be more drastic than the mere re-labeling of the items that constitute the budget in order to solve the problems of the Federal Treasury.

We should not be deluded that less in taxes year after year. The Advisory Committee admits through government action we can receive something for nothing.

If we are to cut taxes, which is not certain at this time, what priorities will be set up to achieve a reduction of spending? Huge deficits and the burdens of borrowing to meet greater and greater national debts will not strengthen a free economy. Any individual who knows the perils of living beyond his means can understand the problem presented. If reform is needed to strengthen our economy, and I think it is, can it be accomplished by the piecemeal remedy of a tax cut? If that alone is accomplished, will we one day find ourselves like the town that learned that its most prominent citizen could no longer run fast enough to meet all his obligations?

There is a fundamental question, too, as to whether our government should studiously avoid facing the realities of budget making. We may surround our government for a time with props to hold together an economy based on deficit financing, but what sacrifices will we ultimately be called upon to make on the day of financial reckoning? Can those which we have helped in other lands bolster our economy? More important, can we then safeguard liberty, the most priceless of all our possessions?

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