

"The Sin of Bridge" Is Subject of Sermon By Rev. C. T. Thrift

Condemns Populair Game and Asks Church People To Leave It Alone

Last Sunday night the Rev. C. T. Thrift preached at the Methodist church on "The Sin of Bridge." In his appeal to his people and to all bridge players to let the game alone, he said, in part (Editor's Note—The following is being published in its entirety at the special request of the Rev. Mr. Thrift):

The Kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom and that is the greatest kingdom of all. The church is the representative of God's Kingdom on earth. That is the greatest organization in this world or the world to come. "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it; the general assembly and church of the first-born in heaven." It is the church militant here and the church triumphant there.

The ministry is the most responsible office in the whole world. All else may fail, but we may start again when there are "men sent from God." The faithful minister is the greatest man that walks the earth. Christ was greater than Herod; Paul was greater than Nero; Luther than Charles V.; Wesley was greater than Pitt. The faithful minister is God's man and his primary obligation is to God and not to man. Paul speaks of Timothy and Epaphras, not as popular, but as faithful ministers.

It is no easy matter to declare all the counsel of God or "to reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine," as Paul exhorted Timothy to do. Unless the preacher's life is four-square, he will be told, "Physician, heal thyself." Many preachers might preach more boldly if they lived more nobly. God's man must combat the world, the flesh and the devil, and there is much of that on the inside of the church, for it has come about that there is very little difference between the church and the world. God's man must be clean morally, not greedy for money, devoted to his work, aiming to present his people faultless before God, and bold in his preaching.

My life has been an open book and the people of this town know my manner of life; you may ask the board of stewards whether I have ever been greedy for money; you may ask every organization of the church whether I have helped or hindered; you may ask those in my church and out of it whether I have been faithful in visiting the sick and the needy;

you may go out in the country and ask what preacher visits them the most, no matter to what church they belong. I have preached in the colored Baptist and the colored Methodist churches. My people have even showered their praise upon me as a preacher, and have marvelled at my zeal for the church. Therefore, as God's minister, as a man, and as a citizen, I am not afraid to speak boldly as I ought to speak.

The Methodist church, humiliated by a consciousness of its low spiritual condition, its low moral standards, and its worldliness, is putting on what is known as the Aldersgate Commemoration of the time when John Wesley's heart was "strangely warmed," regarded as one of the epochal hours in the history of the church. I had announced our study course, which is a part of the program for the entire Methodist church, I had announced it from the pulpit and distributed the books, as busy as I am all the time. I asked the cooperation of the missionary society because they had special interest in the book for credit in their work. They agreed to cooperate and promised to attend. To my great surprise I found that the largest bridge party of the season was being held the very night we started our course, though our program had already been announced. For some reason the bridge party was changed from some other night, thus bringing on a head-on collision. They did it, not I. This bridge party was sponsored by three women, two of whom are members of our church, and our missionary society, and of our choir. The missionary society was well represented at the bridge party but poorly represented at the study group. Bridge clubs are partly and in great measure responsible for the need of the Aldersgate Commemoration. If they are all right then we are doing an unnecessary work in putting it on. In fact it is a question whether we need the church or the minister except to visit the sick and to bury the dead. For in looking over the "society roster" of that night I find there several names of my members who never attend church at any time and whose names are as familiar to the Beacon as the name of the paper itself. In more than 30 years in the ministry I have never seen anything so heartless as this to the program of the church. It is almost past belief. This was done by "leading members," who claim to be my friends and to love me as their pastor.

I was distressed beyond measure for things like this cut the very heart of the pastor. I slept little that night, but cried to God to tell me what to do to handle the situation. For if ever anything needed an emphatic rebuke, that did. I would have been recreant to my trust as God's man if I had let it go unrebuked. I would have been a cringing coward. Nearly morning I prayed, "Lord, show me what to do." Clearly the

answer came to me: Dismiss your choir for next Sunday, and that will arrest their attention and focus the eyes of the whole church and community upon the enormity of this thing. I accepted it and immediately went to sleep. I have been happy ever since and have been busy about the Lord's work, visiting and praying with the sick, making religion to everybody, and walking with the King. I have had a glorious time.

If the bridge party had been as moral and innocent as making mud pies or playing marbles, it would have been a sin for the members of the church to have preferred it to any church meeting, especially one they had pledged their support. "Lovest thou Me more than these things? Even innocent things must not be given precedence. The church should come first. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God."

But bridge is not innocent. I believe that no man is qualified to speak. (You can't get any preacher in Plymouth to endorse it.) Are we fools or blind? I am an expert in my line as much as the lawyer, or the doctor, or the engineer. Why don't people go to a plumber for advice about law or to a horse doctor to run a factory or to a garage man to extract their teeth? If the people know more than the ministers, what are their preachers for? If they will not have their advice, why do they want preachers anyway? The essence of bridge is gambling, nothing else. If gambling is all right, bridge is all right, too. But not only the moral law, but the statutes condemn gambling. What is the difference between men down town in a back room playing poker for money and women up town playing bridge or silk stock, or in the Beacon? There is not as much as between tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee! It has the same color and smell. It is the same. Gambling is one of the great sins of the world. I declare to you my people that, as God's man, pronouncement bridge just plain gambling.

I have heard of a good sister in the church who gave her husband "the devil" for staying out until midnight drinking and playing bridge. Her husband, when she had just come in at 10 o'clock from a bridge party, where they drank cocktails and she won the big prize. That would make a dog laugh.

Cut out the prizes and a great deal of it would stop. "Prizes and stakes make it interesting, you know." The thing is deadly in its effects on spirituality. For instance, Plymouth is reeking with bridge. It has gone to seed here. If it is a good thing our people ought to be known far and wide as a holy people, but they are known everywhere for the worldliness. Visitors at our churches marvel at the small number attending church, and at the almost utter lack of any spiritual note or power in any of the church meetings. They are in the hands of bridge players. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

In my own church bridge conflicts with almost everything in the week time. People cannot go to this inspirational meeting where they might get help or they might go to prayer meeting, but bridge has the right of way and comes first. I never saw anything just like it. Our Sunday school moves on leaden feet for the same reason. If I saw to lead bridge was making saints and filling my church with holy zeal and godly enthusiasm, I would be for it. But, alas, the opposite is true.

Can it make saints? Can any good thing come out of it? In an atmosphere frequently dense with tobacco smoke, with cocktails before and after, with the gossip, with the gambling spirit, yes, can any good thing come out of it? Can it? You know it can't.

I thus declare myself against bridge. I implore my people every one to touch not the unclean thing but to follow me as I try to lead them into high and holy living. But no pastor can lead his people when they are headed the wrong way. A shepherd cannot do that with sheep. Preacher and people are both doomed though they are following him, if they are going the wrong way. God's man cannot do that. Eye servants and men-pleasers might. God's man ought always to face the right way. Then his people ought always to be at his back and never facing him. If they are, they are wrong. Thus he is forced to try to keep them from going to hell when they are following him to heaven.

I appeal to my people to "about face, march." Arise, let us be going to the mountain tops and have our hearts strangely warmed and find peace and joy.

If you believe that I am God's man, follow me. If you don't believe that I am God's man, come out and say so. Praise less and do more that I ask you to do. Actions speak louder than words.

Thirty-one 4-H corn club members of Granville County report 46 bushels to the acre as the lowest yield secured last year while Earl Farabow of Stem produced 103.5 bushels on his acre to win the county championship.

Announce Program Methodist Services

There was a good congregation to hear the sermon, and the following members attended the Methodist Church last Sunday night: Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Harrison, Mrs. Katherine Harrison, Justus Ange, Mrs. Ruth Winslow, Mr. and Mrs. Dock Latham, Roy Manning, B. G. Campbell, Mrs. Don Davis, Mrs. Allen Dupree, Mrs. C. T. Thrift, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. T. M. Bratten, Martha McGowan, Dr. and Mrs. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Basinger, Mrs. Mary Owens, Mrs. Alice Brown, Miss Olga Gardner, Claudia Bratten, Miss Ethel Perry, Rankin Ambrose, Mrs. Dave Hurley.

The congregational singing was so good last Sunday that it will be continued next Sunday. It elicited comments from the presiding elder and his wife.

The young people will meet at 6:30. At 7:30 the pastor will speak on "The Heroism and Hardships of the Early Methodist Preachers in North Carolina."

The March issue of the Roanoke Messenger will be 50 per cent larger, going from 16 to 24 pages. Jamesville, Plymouth and Roper High Schools will have pages in it. It is meeting with a hearty reception.

Open-Air Preaching Saturday If the weather is favorable Rev. C. T. Thrift will preach on the vacant lot between the Coca-Cola Bottling Works and Middett's Service Station Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Music Honor Roll The following were on the Music Honor Roll: Barbara Barnes, Neva Patrick, Iris Spruill, Marjorie Bateman, Ada Virginia Hopkins, Mary Ellen Stillman, Betty Jean Bateman, Clyde Smithson Jr. and Theda Hopkins.

Eleventh grade: Ralph Davenport, Anna Jane Blue, Ada Craddock, Gertrude Davis, and Vera Snell.

Tenth grade: Colia Davenport, Evelyn Swain and Theda Hopkins.

Ninth grade: J. C. Gatlin, Billy Wells Bateman, Marjorie Bateman, Edna Rae Spruill, Selma Stillman and Margaret Davis.

Eighth grade: Carrol Van Davenport, Neva Patrick and Gerard Spruill.

Seventh grade: Rachel Woodley, Geneva Ambrose and John Hufton.

Sixth grade: Evelyn Belanga, Lydia Halsey, Selma Furlough, Thelma Roebuck, Robert Bateman and Billy Liverman.

Fifth grade: Alma Stallcup, Wendell Haire, William Davenport, Edna Spencer, Eva Liverman, Louise Spruill, Melvin Chambers and Arthur Alexander.

Fourth grade: Virginia Woodley, Marjorie Phelps, Eloise Gibbs, Ed with Norman, Clyde Smithson, Jr., Jimmie Hopkins, James Harold Gibbs, James Davenport, Lillie Cooper and Nettie Hathaway.

Third grade: Christeen Ambrose, Mildred Ruth Ambrose, Betty Jean Bateman, Vivian Cahoon, Sadie Lee Patrick, Betty Swain, Daphnia Williams, Dan Davenport, Robert Irwin Stillman, Gervis Phelps, Garland Spruill, and Aubrey Spruill.

Second grade: Wade Phelps, William Herbert Clifton, Mary Jane Ambrose, Alice Patrick, Jean Craddock, Louise Davenport, Cleo Davis, William Furlough, Jack Middette, Marjorie Davenport and Dorrence Phelps.

First Grade: Anita Nooney, Alice Davenport, Marvin Davenport and Ruth Mae Sawyer.

Honor Students at Creswell Increase; January Lists 81

Number for Past Month Nearly Double That of Two Preceding Months

Honor students of the Creswell school in January jumped to a record high of 81, almost doubling the number for November and December, according to a release by Principal A. T. Brooks.

As a coincidence, there were 49 students on the roll each of the last two months. These students have averaged B or over during the period covered by the report.

The third grade led with 8 last month but for January the second and third grade led the list with a total of 12 students each. The fifth was the next best with 8 and 9 in the music class.

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Bridge Club Meeting Held Last Tuesday

Mrs. W. E. Waters and Mrs. Rasser Edwards were hostesses to their bridge club members at one of the prettiest dinner parties of the season when they entertained them at the country club Tuesday night.

The three-course dinner consisted of grape fruit, fried chicken, asparagus, mashed potatoes, tomato aspic, celery, pickles, hot rolls, ice cream covered with cherries, cake and coffee. On each dessert plate a Cupid was placed to further carry out the Valentine motif.

Following the dinner, bridge was played at three tables, with Mrs. W. L. Whitley winning the high score prize. Mrs. W. C. Chesson won second high score gift; and low-score awards were given at each table.

CHERRY

Messrs. Sidney Holloway and John Smith, of Newport News, Va., were visitors here Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Bennett and children were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Burgess Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Spruill were week-end guests of his mother, Mrs. J. W. Spruill.

LEGAL NOTICES

North Carolina, Washington County; Superior Court, Before the Clerk, John L. Roper Lumber Company, a Corporation, vs. John Bell, Et Al. Glover B. Allen, C. B. Brewster, C. M. Manning and Cora Manning will take notice that a motion has been lodged in the above entitled proceedings before the Clerk Superior Court of Washington County, North Carolina, for the cancellation of the certain certificate of title, covering the land hereinafter described, issued to Glover B. Allen, and recorded in book 5, page 62, of Washington County, a certificate of title issued to C. B. Brewster covering the same land and recorded in book 7, page 255, Washington County, and a certificate of title covering the same land issued to C. M. Manning and Cora Manning, recorded in book 8, page 17, of Washington County, and that the land covered by said certificates is described as follows:

All that certain lot, tract or parcel of land containing 76.5 acres, more or less, located, lying and being in Lees Mill Township, County of Washington, State of North Carolina, being bounded on the north by Bertha Hartung, on the east by W. L. Furbace, on the south by B. M. Holton, and on the west by "A" Canal, and being lot No. 12 South of Washington County Drainage District Number 4; and having such shapes, metes, courses and distances as will more fully appear by reference to a plat thereof, made by Stewart Harris, surveyor, September, 1923, which plat is on file with the Federal Land Bank of Columbia.

The said Glover B. Allen, C. B. Brewster, C. M. Manning and Cora Manning will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said county in the courthouse in Plymouth, N. C., on the 28th day of February, 1938, at 10 o'clock a. m., and show cause, if any they have, why the certificates of title above referred to should not be cancelled and a new certificate issued to the Federal Land Bank of Columbia or its assignee.

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LEGAL NOTICES

This the 15th day of February, 1938. C. V. W. AUSBON, Clerk Superior Court of Washington County, North Carolina. (Copy) 118 2t

NOTICE North Carolina, Washington County; Superior Court. Town of Plymouth vs. Marcellus Everett

The defendant, Marcellus Everett, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Washington County, North Carolina, as follows: To foreclose against the lands of the defendant for the years 1930 to 1935 both inclusive, the said lands being Lot No. 13 of the paving map of west Main Street of said town and adjoining the lands of Commodore Heath and Virginia Cooper and abutting on said Main Street fifty feet; that the said defendant is a necessary party to this action for the foreclosure of the said paying assessments in the sum of fifty-nine and 61-100 (\$59.61) dollars and interest as alleged in the complaint; and the said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear in the office of the Clerk Superior Court in said county in the courthouse in Plymouth, N. C., within thirty days from and after the 18th day of March, 1938, and answer or demur to the complaint of the plaintiff, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This the 22nd day of February, 1938. C. V. W. AUSBON, Clerk Superior Court, Washington County, North Carolina. 128 4t

NOTICE OF SALE Under and by virtue of a power of sale embraced in a certain deed of trust executed by W. Davenport and wife on the 30th day of April, 1932 to A. R. Dunning, Trustee, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Washington County, North Carolina, in Book 107, page 193, and to be forfeited to the holder thereof having made demand of foreclosure, the undersigned Trustee, having been substituted as Trustee, for A. R. Dunning, said substitution being duly recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds in

Washington County, North Carolina, in Book 121, page 367, will expose at public sale, at the Court House door in Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, to the highest bidder for cash, on the 24th day of March, 1938, at 12 o'clock noon, subject to all unpaid taxes, the following described property: Two certain tracts of land lying and being in Washington County, and more particularly described as follows:

1st Tract: Beginning at an iron stob at the public road in Eli F. Spruill corner at the public road, running westwardly along said Eli F. Spruill's line to his northwest corner and thence running on the same course of said Eli F. Spruill's line to W. C. Spruill's line, thence southwardly along said W. C. Spruill's line to Prissy Bomes line, thence eastwardly along said public road to the first station, containing four acres, more or less, being the same land conveyed to A. W. Davenport by G. F. Woodley and Hester A. Woodley. Recorded Book 68, page 19.

2nd Tract: Beginning at an iron post at the public road on the East side of said road directly opposite the line of A. W. Davenport and Prissy Bomes on the West side of said road running eastwardly in the same direction as the line of said Prissy Bomes and A. W. Davenport to Beaver Creek, thence northwardly along said Creek being down the Creek to N. A. McGowan line, (formerly N. A. Craddock) thence westwardly and southwardly along said N. A. McGowan line to Samuel Simpson line (thence Southwardly and westwardly along Samuel Simpson line to the public road, thence southwardly along the road being up the road to the first station, containing six acres, more or less, being the same land conveyed to A. W. Davenport by A. M. Ambrose and wife, Julia A. Ambrose. Recorded in Book 68, page 30. The highest bidder at said sale will be required to deposit ten per cent of his bid as evidence of good faith, and to be forfeited to the holder of said bonds in the event his bid is not complied with upon demand by said Trustee.

This 21st day of February, 1938. Z. V. NORMAN, Substituted Trustee. 125 4t

Come to Plymouth WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2 In Interest of Paving the Turnpike Road Through Wenona to Pantego And when you are in Plymouth, be sure to visit O. R. Leggett's Son, one-price jewelry store. Also Bring Your Watch or Clock Along To Have It Correctly Repaired at a Nominal Price O. R. Leggett's Son "One-Price Jeweler and Engraver"

GIVE HIM THE RIGHT START 9 ADVANTAGES OF COLD ROOM ELECTRIC BROODING 1 - Quicker feathering and more natural bird development. 2 - Reliable automatic heat regulation—regardless of weather conditions—eliminates many day or night trips to the brooder house. 3 - Electric heat requires no extra labor costs. 4 - Electric heat does not use up the oxygen. 5 - Produces birds more immune to temperature changes; less tendency to crowd; easier to handle. 6 - No danger of overheating in warm weather. 7 - Birds can secure advantage of earlier outside range and sunshine. 8 - A good electric brooder is a lasting investment. 9 - No fuel investment; no storage or handling fuel; no waste. You may pay for it after it is used. Our Agricultural Engineer is at your service, without cost or obligation. VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

Mount Tabor Club Meeting Friday The Mount Tabor home demonstration club held its regular meeting at the home of Mrs. L. W. Davenport on Friday with 8 members and 3 visitors present. One new member was added to the club roll. Following reports from the canning and clothing leaders, Mrs. Aiton Furlough was elected poultry leader and Mrs. Annie Ambrose and Sarah Holmes house furnishings leaders. Mrs. Darden gave an interesting demonstration on refinishing floors. During the social hour the members enjoyed several games and contests, with Mrs. Earl Middette winning the prize. The hostess served fruit and candy.

Courtney Funeral Home Successor To Nurney Funeral Home PLYMOUTH, N. C. FUNERAL DIRECTORS EMBALMERS AMBULANCE SERVICE DAY or NIGHT Call 247-6

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