

Power of God
Lesson for February 4, 1951

ONCE UPON a time, miracles were one of the strongest arguments supporting Christianity. In our times, it is quite the reverse; miracles are for many Christians a major embarrassment, and for others a principal reason for not believing what Christians teach. There is no room in one column to debate this question. A very readable recent book on this line by C. S. Lewis, called "Miracles," may help to clear the reader's mind, showing that the common idea that miracles are impossible, is a mistaken idea.



Christ the Power of God
PAUL calls Jesus Christ "the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:24). Whether you believe that Jesus could perform miracles or not, whether you find such a belief hard or easy, depends a good deal on what you think of Christ. If you think of him as a man much like yourself, and no more, then you have as hard a time believing that he could work miracles as in believing that you yourself could do so. But if you believe that in some way he was more than simply a man like yourself, but that God was in Christ (as Paul said), that in his mind was the wisdom of God and through him surged the power of God, you will not have much difficulty with the miracles.

But suppose you cannot start with the high faith in Christ as Son of God; at least you can start with historical facts which no one can reasonably doubt. One of these facts is that there lived a person named Jesus of Nazareth. Another fact is that it was believed about him, already in his lifetime, that he could do all sorts of astounding things—cure hopeless cripples, bring people back from the dead, stop a storm in his tracks, drive demons back to hell. You will have to admit that this Jesus must have been an extraordinary character to have such things believed of him, even if they were not true. Starting from that point, you may be led to look into this man's story further, and—like many others—may come out at last believing in Christ as the divine Lord.

Motive for Miracle
ONE THING the thoughtful reader will see in these miracles told of Jesus: they were not done to show off. Jesus himself did not brag about them, nor call attention to them, nor talk much about them. He saw people in trouble and he came to their help. It was as simple as that. He is not reported to have stopped all the storms in Galilee, but only one; and that one not to save himself nor even to save any one else from death, but to save them from fear. He sent the demons tumbling into the lake, not to create a wonder-tale nor to show how much stronger he was than demons, but he did it to help a poor wild madman back to sanity. He did not go around to funerals in Palestine bringing all the corpses back to life and cheating the undertakers for three years running. On the contrary, he went to Jairus's house only when asked.

There is a certain modesty about all these miracles; and there is love in each of them. The great difference between miracle-working power in the hands of Jesus and such power in the hands of ordinary men, is suggested in the remarkable tale by H. G. Wells, "The Man Who Could Work Miracles." It is the tale of a man who found to his dismay that his supernatural powers brought only disaster to the world.

The Most Personal Miracle
SOME YEARS ago there was a young man in Austria who had for a long time put up an unsuccessful struggle with himself. To put it shortly, just had him in his grip. He had about given himself up as a bad job, when he made the acquaintance of two young priests. He asked himself: What do these men have that I do not have? And he discovered the answer: Christ. That was how Baron von Hugel, one of the great minds of our century, became a Christian. He discovered that Christ, now can work a miracle in a man; and one miracle, experienced in one's own life, can be of more value than a hundred miracles recorded on paper.

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CARD OF THANKS
The family of the late Enoch Howard wish to explain their appreciation for the kindness shown in their recent bereavement.

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 29 — Much talk has been made about the "independence" of this legislature, how it could not be bulldozed by Governor Kerr Scott and how it had a mind of its own.

Most of this conversation has come from the extreme conservative, or anti-Scott forces. These folks -- sitting in the saddle at the beginning of the 1951 General Assembly some four weeks ago -- suddenly have discovered that "independence" is a two-edged sword that is likely to cut their own throats. These folks also have discovered that the Legislature is divided into three parts: (1) the ultra-conservatives, hold-the-line, no new taxes -- no new spending group that includes the anti-Scott boys -- although all of this group is by no means anti-administration despite the fact that the leaders generally are "agin-Scotters"; (2) the "down-the-line" supporters of Scott who, if anything, think he was too conservative in his recommendations to the Legislature; and (3) the lawmakers who are not on either side but are considering each individual measure with an open mind, trying to do what is best for North Carolina.

Fortunately, the latter group is the largest. Incidentally, most of the freshmen senators and representatives fall into this category. They have not lined up on either side, although they are resentful of the ramrodding attempts of the ultra-conservative group -- particularly as evidenced in the stacking of committees -- and at this writing are leaning toward the administration and the liberal side of the fence.

The conservative leadership lost ground with the committee appointments, but the investigation of the building of the State Fair coliseum -- which they were sure would cast discredit upon the administration -- turned into a boomerang that had them talking to themselves by last week end.

The would-be Legislature bosses discovered that killing the coliseum, which at first seemed to have universal favor, was heartily opposed by agriculture leaders. These leaders at a public hearing told a special committee investigating the building that it would be a big boon to agriculture and industry in North Carolina -- particularly to the cattle industry, which they labeled as Tar Heel's greatest field for "cash crop" growth.

And many of the legislators, when they found that the coliseum would not be a basketball or ice-skating arena, but would be used primarily as a livestock arena, decided that it was not the monstrosity it had been at first pictured.

They learned, too, that it would cost the State quite a bit of money to watch on its contract to build the coliseum, and many of them did not like the idea of the State trying to get out of a contract anyway.

They learned, too, that the investigation had been promoted back of the scenes by some would-be political string-pullers with a primary aim of embarrassing the administration. Ironically, one of these ambitious big wheels now is talking about how "disappointed" he is one of the legislators fighting the hardest for discontinuance of the coliseum. This same would-be kingmaker helped to investigate the investigation. It is reported, despite the fact that he at one time fought for the coliseum and also contributed to the election campaign of the very legislator he now is tossing to the wolves.

All of which adds up to this: You can expect some knock down dragout legislative fights.

The balance of power in the Legislature may swing to the administration.

And he who messes with top-level politics frequently finds his fingers singed.

Incidentally, a lot of the lawmakers are waking up to the fact that the "hold-the-line" recommended budget really is a "back of the line" budget.

It left out even the contingent pay raises for school teachers; it left out some \$8,500,000 for the hospital building program, and it ignored merit pay raises for State employees under the general fund. Just adding up those items comes to something like \$25,000,000. Add in money enough to take care of enough teachers to keep the teacherload the same as it is now and you get pretty close to the \$30,000,000 mark. Add upkeep and staffing of permanent improvements, and you get mighty close to the \$38,000,000 that Governor Scott asked for in addition to the recommended budget.

Even some of the conservatives are beginning to talk as though the governor knew what was needed.

However, they still are fighting taxes. Their aim, apparently, is to cut enough money out of the \$44,000,000 still unspent or not yet contracted for in the permanent improvement kitty to make up the difference.

finance committee sessions would indicate that several of the boys will stage a fight to put theethers back under the sales tax and eliminate many, if not all, of the sales tax exemptions.

A bill probably will be introduced this week giving ABC officers the right to go into every county in the State in an effort to stamp out bootlegging.

Now, the ABC investigators can go only into those counties having legal sale of liquor or beer and wine.

The measure would have the effect of setting up a state-wide unit similar to the Federal government's Alcohol Tax Unit, which is the scourge of white liquor makers.

Much has been said about the laxity of law enforcement in so-called dry counties. In many of them you can buy liquor easier and cheaper than you can in those counties having ABC stores. Public apathy, indifferent law officers, and in some instances payoffs are responsible.

This bill would give ABC officers the right to go into any county in the State to make investigations and arrests of bootleggers and other violators of the liquor, beer and wine laws. Its backers claim it would increase enforcement of the laws immeasurably and cut down bootlegging to a minimum.

Ironically, opposition is expected from the dries -- who yell for a state liquor vote but in many instances don't bother to try to enforce the prohibition laws in their own dry counties.

Incidentally, the Allied Church League has declared war -- come 1952 -- on all legislators who aren't militant dries. This organization does not approve the present bill before the legislature, which would call for a vote on an all-wet or all-dry State. It will draw up one more to its own liking and seek some legislator to introduce it. Such a bill would call for an all-dry or an "as is" state -- the Allied Church League being afraid to take a chance on a real test of wet and dry strength. Their attitude is "we want you to quit selling liquor but we don't want to take the remote gamble that you might win and be able to sell your hooch in our territory." And they claim such a vote should be taken in the name of democracy! This corner believes the State would go dry if a referendum were to be held, but the question should be honestly answered and not on a half-way basis.

bill drew in other horns and their bill last week. Originally introduced to put Judge Luther Hamilton of Morehead City back on the retirement pay roll, it ran into trouble from lawmakers who didn't feel a bill should be passed just for one judge's benefit. Many of our legislators feel that the laws on retirement of judges should be rewritten entirely. Among other things, they have discovered that judges do not contribute to their own retirement. They don't put one penny in the State employees retirement fund. That caused some raised eyebrows. It probably will cause the bill to be much amended, if it ever sees the light of day again. And there was some speculation that if and when it is passed it will either leave Judge Hamilton out in the cold or name him specifically.

You can expect a concerted effort and considerable pressure to get Governor Scott to name Bruce Etheridge of Manteo to the Board of Conservation and Development to succeed the late Roy Hampton of Plymouth.

The conservative forces already are pushing the "Duke of Dare" -- who resigned as director of the Department of Conservation and Development because he and Kerr Scott didn't exactly see eye to eye. Should be right interesting to watch the parade.

Senator Junius Powell of Columbus has been introducing all kinds of measures aimed at putting more stringent restrictions on the highway laws. They range from outlawing stock car racing to putting more severe penalties on speeding, drunken driving, and the like to lowering certain speed limits.

But just because he introduces them doesn't mean that he is for them. You see, he's chairman of the Senate Roads Committee. Custom has it that the chairman of this committee introduces Motor Vehicle Department-sponsored bills, whether he personally backs them or not.

Legislators dodge questions on senatorial redistricting much in the same way they would evade such queries as "have you beaten your mother-in-law lately?" They feel like they can't win, no matter how they answer.

Most of the districts would lose by redistricting, and no lawmaker wants to go on record as favoring something that would hurt his section of the State.

Charlotte, Greensboro, et al, will yell, but it wouldn't be at all surprising if the constitutional requirement for redistricting every 10 years is ignored by this session of the General Assembly.

The first bill really doing anything about reorganization of the

ing claims against the State. Sawyer's bill would submit the constitutional question to a vote at the next general election. If favored, the legislature would be authorized to reorganize the various agencies headed by elective officials. It also would set up a merit system, covering all but elective officials and top appointive brass. Two other bills on reorganization have been introduced, but they merely call for commissions to study the possibility of such a move. In the past, such measures have resulted in nothing being done. Sawyer's bill, if passed and voted upon by the homelinks favorable would make reorganization mandatory.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE
The undersigned having been appointed and duly qualified as administrator of the estate of W. T.

This the 17th day of January, 1951.
C. C. Brown, Administrator
of W. T. Rackley, deceased.
2-23-51. CCB

State College Hints

Ground fresh meat, liver and brains, spoil more quickly than other. Store loosely wrapped; and cook within two days for best flavor.

Keep cooked meat, poultry, and fish covered in the refrigerator. Keep eggs covered in the refrigerator. Storing eggs with the large end up keeps the yolk centered.

Keep frozen foods frozen until time to use. Refreezing lowers the quality. Keep canned foods in dry place at preferably 70 degrees.

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ARCTIC MISSIONER
Father F. Bernhe, O.M.I., member of the Oblate mission at Repulse Inlet (Canada) on the Foulke sea north of the Arctic circle, wears caribou skin as deerskin Eskimo parkies.

Asks Two Billion For Specialists To Oppose Reds

DALLAS, Tex. — Dr. Frank C. Laubach, missionary-educator, asks church members here to contribute five per cent of their income to help finance a plan to save the world from Communism.

Dr. Laubach told the downtown Lions Club and the Dallas Council of Church Women at two talks that his plan would require an army of 50,000 specialists and about two billion dollars. He said that any money contributed to the plan could be deducted from income taxes.

The army of specialists would teach agriculture, health, hygiene, journalism and other subjects in the lands where knowledge is lacking—those countries where people are in danger of turning to Communism as a way out of their plight.

Dr. Laubach said the army would work among the 1,300,000,000 people who cannot write their own names.

"We are winning the fight in Korea," he said, "but we have not begun to win the cold war, except in Europe. Asia is disintegrating; China went last year; India and Burma are in danger of falling to the Communists, and Africa, too, is in danger."

"I believe I know the reason. It is a reason that ambassadors and army generals will not know because they do not mingle with the masses of those countries. It is because those masses are hungry, miserable, sick, destitute and desperately unhappy—ready to do anything and murder."

Pope Voices Esteem For Catholics

LONDON — Esteem and affection for Britain's Catholics were expressed by Pope Pius XII in a special radio message to about 100,000 Catholics assembled in Wembley Stadium.

Addressing the huge crowd, which had gathered for the closing of week-long ceremonies commemorating the centenary of the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy of England and Wales, the Pope bestowed his apostolic blessing upon his flock in England, and expressed his "profound esteem" for Britain's king and queen.

The pontiff went on to speak of "all those men of good will in England and Wales who would serve God and who are not in communion with the See of Peter."

"We should like them to know," he said, "that they have a place in our hearts and we pray often for their welfare in this life and in the next."

Arab Orthodox Protest Disregard of Rights

CAIRO — A protest has been made here against the alleged disregard of the rights of Arabic-speaking adherents of the Greek Orthodox community in Egypt by Greek Orthodox Patriarch Christopher of Alexandria.

The protest denounced a recent declaration by Patriarch Christopher barring use of the Arabic language in church services, in the religious status courts, and in the official transactions of the patriarchate.

Formulating the protest were Arab Orthodox representatives from various Egyptian cities who met under the presidency of Elias Ennad, chairman of the Alexandria council of the Egyptian Greek Orthodox community.

Diplomas Mass Movement

PROVIDENCE, R. I. — Modern emphasis on mass movements and mass crises rather than upon the individual will not work in the church, 6,000 Episcopallians of the Rhode Island diocese were told here by their presiding bishop.

To be vigorous, said the Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, religious must be personal, not second-hand.

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