



Through Faith Alone Can Hope Survive

IT GOT around that it was somehow unmanly to believe in God. Sissy to say your prayers.

Those were the queer, sick years between the two wars. When morality had to do with vice, drinking and the other fellow; when it was all right for even free governments to get away with making promises the instruments of their own renunciation. Those were the years when we forgot justice for "progress" while the world's conscience slipped softly into decline.

So now the half gods rule, loosed in a tempest of our own making. It is the day of the Black Faith, religion of neglect and despair. The creed of brutality and force drives its millions with the fury of a holy war. Humanity is pretty sick, and while planes, tanks and battleships may save the patient—just this once again—they cannot ever cure the disease.

Free men are face to face with a mighty decision. Either they must meet the Black Faith with a great Faith of their own—or surrender to the deluge.

The choice is plain. To oppose the fanatic religion of negation and force with the Faith of their fathers. To learn to live by the creed of decency and justice, righteousness, sympathy and understanding. To find resolution in their belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Or to deny all hope.

Decent men in their hearts are sick of kindness and charity just at Christmastime and greed and suspicion the rest of the year. They are

weary of a world that has produced telephones and printing presses but has forgotten honesty and the Ten Commandments. They are tired of being told it is "necessary" to oppose working people if they are employers, to hate the "employing class" if they are workers. They are tired of free governments that have so forgotten Jefferson and Lincoln that they encourage class hate in the name of progress.

Decent men want to think of other men as fellow human beings.

It is high time for free America to find again the ideals of its founders. To take pride in mothering the oppressed. To reach out for the meaning of mercy, sympathy and love. To share in proud humility a simple belief in God.

For greater far than all the questions of defense that now face America are the problems of the years to come, the enormous, challenging problems that we shall have to solve as the great free people of the post-war world. We shall have to solve them in the spirit of helpfulness and brotherhood. We shall have to dedicate our strength and our free ideals in wisdom to bring about the lasting peace that will find no nation a pawn, no man a scape-goat, but all peoples neighbors and friends. We tried it the other way once. And it did not work.

Perhaps, even now, unnoticed, the ground swell is beginning. We like to think that, quietly, out of these racking times there may stem a new dignity, never yet attained, for all mankind; rooted in Faith and flowering, not in mere tolerance or respect, but in kindness and sympathy; in a real wish to understand our fellow men.