

## Christian Admiral Talk

1966

Ps.119:105

The passage I read to you this morning from the book of Psalms ended with v. 105 (of Ps. 119): "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my pathway." Many today don't seem to think we need a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. They think man is able to plot his course, plan his life and build a wonderful world. When a couple of men have an idea like this and succeed in getting power into their hands, as of the case of the communists in Russia and in China, we find them forcing others in line with their desire and eventually murdering millions of people in order to carry out their blueprint of what they think is going to be for the welfare of the world.

Actually, no man is able to plan a society or life as it should be. All the good things we have in the world today flow from the results of certain teachings of Christian character from the spread of the gospel. Life apart from the knowledge of the Bible is full of uncertainty. No one of us knows what's ahead of us. No one of us with the Bible knows what is ahead of us. You notice this does not say, "Thy Word is a spotlight that can look ahead through all the course of my life and tell me everything beyond." It is a lamp to my feet; a lamp to my path. It is a means of knowing how I should live amid the uncertainties and difficulties and problems we face. Unchristian men, men who did not accept the Bible back in the '20's had an ultra-optimistic philosophy. Everything was good with the world. Everything was getting better and better. All we needed to do was go forward and do what we felt like and the world would be perfect. Many today act as if they still had that view, but if you take the philosophy and literature that has come out in recent years, we find it has moved in the opposite direction.

There was an interesting article on Existentialism in LIFE mag. a year and a half ago in which it showed how existentialism has affected the attitude of most of the writers of today. They had pictures of 25 writers from different countries, and every one of them had a stern sad face in the picture presented there as if he looked ahead into darkness, terror and misery. The best he could say was, ~~Wax~~ Clench your fists and hang on, hold tight to the existential view and maybe you'll get through! in some way or other.

How different is the teaching of the Bible. Not a blind optimism that everything is good. Everything isn't good. Sin is in the world. Sin has brought death. As a result of sin, then come disease and troubles, and it affects everyone of us, sometime in our lives. Yet there is no need to give way to despair. God knows all about it. God controls it. God can show us how to find a remedy for the sin that so easily besets us, through His Word. "Thy word is a ~~pxm~~ lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

What do we mean by the Word of God. One of the best illustrations I'd ever seen of it, is written in a book by a man who is strongly opposed to Christianity. This man is Fred Hoyle, professor of astrophysics in Cambridge University, and also a professor in the Calif. Inst. of Technology. He divides a great part of his time between the two universities. He invented a theory called the steady state theory of the universe in which he maintains there never was a creation but matter is constantly being created. Continuous creation. Never a beginning but always going on. He has written a little book to present evidence for his theory. The most interesting part of the book to me is the last chapter.

October 20, 1966

SYNOD of B. P. Church in Cape May, N. J.