

17 - Thanksgiving 11/21/72

the people as a whole were tired of it. And in 1660 Charles II came back and they clamped down harder than they ever had before and Puritanism was wiped out of England. John Bunyan was put in prison and he could get out any time if he would promise not to preach. Richard Baxter who had helped to bring Charles II back was forbidden ever to go back to Kidderminster where he had done such a great work. He was forbidden to preach at all and when he was caught preaching in a little home to a small group of people he was taken and put in the stocks, and publicly chastized. English life in the last part of that century sank to the lowest point morally and religious that it perhaps ever had in its history. In that period of the Restoration. This was ~~was~~ the one time when the Pilgrims coming could have produced the great in coming that it did of great numbers of people thoroughly devoted to the Lord because Puritanism was largely gone by the end of the Century. But here it was a force coming up and yet suffering under oppression just at the right time for this great multitude to come and just at the right time to show Christian people in many parts of Europe that if you were oppressed here you can come over to America, there is a possibility over there of establishing a situation there which ~~is~~ where you can be free to carry on your religious life as you think the Bible ~~teaches~~ teaches without molestation or without interference and it set the tone for American life which ~~has been~~ meant to the world during these centuries since.

So let's have no more nonsense about the Pilgrims. Yes, when I was a boy we heard about the pumpkin pies and the pictures of the Pilgrims, the turkeys and all that and I'm afraid that is ~~what/what/what~~ the most that about all of our people know about the Pilgrims. ~~Oh/that's~~ All that is superficial, but the important fact is how wonderfully and miraculously God worked to make it possible for them to come, possible for them to survive, to enable them to come through it safely. How wonderfully he worked in bringing it just at the one time when they could survive and just at the one time when it could have the effect which it did in producing this great immigration to America and in setting the whole tone of our life in this country for some centuries after. In the end of the last century after the Boxer Rebellion in China, the European nations and the Americans went in there in order to put an ~~end~~ end to that situation, and most European nations began to seize parts of China for themselves, but the US refused to do it, and prevented the others from doing it, and the