

A third factor also deserves mention. The early settlers of our nation immersed themselves in the teaching of the Word of God. In it they found no Utopian scheme of managing individuals like puppets under control of an all-powerful state. They found no socialistic blue-print for a managed economy. The Bible assumes and asserts the right of the individual to own property and to engage in economic enterprises on his own initiative. When God killed Ananias, as punishment for lying to the Holy Spirit about the proportion of his property that he had given to the church, Peter made it very clear that this did not involve any denial of his right to own property and to use it to engage in free enterprise. In connection with this, Acts 5:4 quotes Peter as saying to Ananias: "While it remained was it not thine own? And after it was sold was it not in thine own power?" One of the parables of Jesus reported in the gospels is called: "The Parable of the Talents" and another is called, "The Parable of the Pounds". In both of these *parables* Jesus told of men who were given a sum of money to hold for a time. Two of the men traded with the money and increased it, and for this they were praised. The third one hid it in the earth, in order to keep it intact, and for this he was strongly condemned, being told that he should at least have invested the money in order that interest might accrue on it. The founders of America learned from these and other teachings of the Bible that the nation would prosper as its individuals were encouraged to prove themselves by undertaking new enterprises which would succeed or fail in proportion to the wisdom of their planning and to the energy and faithfulness of the individuals involved.

It is true that 1621 saw the beginning of an experiment in a species of communism upon these shores. The Pilgrim Fathers had assumed a heavy debt to pay for their transportation to America. At first they worked the land in common, turning in all the produce to one common store. Thus each was expected to give according to his ability, and to receive according to his need. This organization continued for two years, during which the community found it very difficult to make ends meet, and quite impossible to provide a surplus toward repayment to creditors in England. Governor Bradford tells in his Journal about the decision to change the type of organization. In 1623 Land was distributed to the various families and they were informed that every family should keep what it produced, with the exception of a small per cent that should be turned into the common treasury to pay off the debt and to provide for the necessary security of the colony. Bradford reports that the results of the change were amazing. Whole families toiled in the fields, laboring throughout the heat of the day in order that as much as possible might be produced. This marks the turning point in the success of the Plymouth Colony. Sooner than had been dreamed possible, the creditors were paid off and the scale of living began to rise. This is one of the causes that has led to the development in the U. S. of an average standard of living far beyond what any other nation has ever experienced.

Thus in 1621 to 1623 the communistic ideals and methods were given the best trial they could ever have. Sober and serious-minded people, with the highest standards of integrity and honesty, who had risked everything for their beliefs, gave Communism a fair trial and found that it does not work out. If this proved to be the fact under such conditions, what else could be expected under less favorable circumstances than the results that have followed in Soviet Russia and in Communist China, with widespread famines, blood purges, agricultural failures and ubiquitous police brutality. America tried Communistic principles three hundred years ago and wisely turned in an entirely

different direction. The results have fully justified the change.

As a result of its devotion to the Christian Faith, and its carrying out in practice of the principles taught in the Bible, our nation grew and prospered. Today, however, a great cloud has come over it. Every day the newspapers tell of further steps toward annihilating us. Russian aggression moves ever nearer. Khrushchev boasts that he will send 100-megaton bombs to blast our cities, unless we desist from helping those who are already victims of communistic brutality. He declares that he will bury us, and that our grandchildren will live under Communism. *While we sleep* thousands of Russian technicians and military men bring to Cuba the latest equipment for mass murder, establishing a base less than one hundred miles from our shores, and threatening flaming destruction to all of us. This done in flagrant violation of the Monroe Doctrine. Long before the Cuban menace reached its present strength, *our ancestors* would have taken the necessary measure to reintroduce freedom to the inhabitants of that suffering island. *We sit* supinely by, talk big, and do nothing. Has America become soft? Do we think that we will find security in pouring out billions in an effort to place a man on the moon, while our enemies build their strength under our very nose and resolutely prepare for our destruction? What has happened to our nation?

The answer to these questions is a simple one. During the last fifty years increasing numbers of educational and ecclesiastical leaders have turned away from the Word of God, forsaking its teaching of the sinfulness of man and his need of salvation through Christ who died to provide it. They teach the possibility of establishing a Utopia on earth by human schemes. They cast aside the Christian principles on which our nation was founded and substitute a policy of pouring out our resources in all directions, while throttling the forces that have provided these unprecedented sources of wealth. Many leaders of our nation have been subjected to brainwashing by those who present a blue print for a new economy that has many points in common with the very Communism that is seeking to destroy us.

At the beginning of the present century there were hundreds of colleges in the U. S. that stood upon the Word of God and taught their students that it is a safe guide for every phase of life. Today scarcely ten of the colleges that were then in existence still teach the entire dependability of the Bible. Men have substituted another Gospel which is not a Gospel at all. In churches and in educational institutions the preaching of the Gospel of Salvation from sin is being replaced by the presentation of a human plan to build a so-called Kingdom of God on earth.

Modernists and unbelievers who advance this "Social Gospel" ignore the fact that the Bible quotes our Lord Jesus Christ as having said, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3). The Bible clearly teaches that the natural man is so corrupted by sin that it is impossible for him to build a perfect system. He needs a new birth. "The heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9). Everything that the unregenerate man does has in it the seeds of corruption. The Bible teaches that earth's greatest problem is the disease of sin which affects every individual and which leads to crime, selfishness, and misery. Unless this is dealt with first no plan of human improvement can succeed.

Since modernists have abandoned the Biblical teaching regarding the true cause of human misery, they have naturally proceeded to ignore or deny the cure that it presents. The Bible says that Jesus Christ is actually God, the