

SEEK THE CHRIST STANDARD

Referring again to the subject which is, Peter taught Good Citizenship. We see in this the establishment of the kingdom of heaven on the earth as taught by Jesus Christ. We haven't externally in this day and age, any guide as to what a Christian should do or how he should act under certain man made laws. Consequently we look to the Bible as authority in a way. But we don't always get direct guidance from the Bible. The Bible deals with generality. But if we apply the lessons that we get in the Scripture to our own inner consciousness we find at once a course. So

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notice this course between the scripture and the spiritual intuition or that spiritual something that we call our conscience. Well, we take our Scripture and unify it with that inner spiritual , we always find that it explains for us the outer law, what we shall do with the man made law.

Now our lesson today, Peter seems to favor following the man made law. And yet some of these man made laws interfere apparently with the right sort of liberty of the individual. And the question arises among all people whether christians or non-christians, "What shall I do in a case

of this kind? I want liberty. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty," wrote Paul. Now what shall we do when our liberty is apparently impressed upon? We have a great issue today before the American people and partians say that its going to be the paramount question in the coming presidential election and that is whether we shall observe the prohibition law as it is on our statues or whether it shall be ignored. Whether we shall nulify it in some way, have a referendum, or in some way get back of this restriction of these people that want to satisfy the lusts of the appetite, say they are impressing upon their liberty. Now many of us

who teach increased liberty are a little bit in doubt as to how we should proceed in this matter, which side we should call upon in the

But if we refer the question to the Scriptures and then take that up in our own inner consciousness, we know at once where we belong, whether we favor a liberty which unlimited sale of liquor would give or whether we would rather see men restricted by law. Now we don't want to be restricted ourselves and are we restricted? Why no, not at all. That's what Peter is teaching in the lesson. That's where we observe the law of God where we observe this law of Spirit, is no restriction whatever in man made law.

Man himself recognizes that. We have a law in, I think in the majority of the states which is called capital punishment, that if a man or a woman kills another, they should be killed. That's the law laid down by Moses in the Mosaic Law. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But is that Christianity? No. That isn't Christianity. That is Paganism. That law was followed by the Israelites from the Pagans. And we in following that law, are following the law of Paganism. Not the law of Jesus Christ because Jesus openly resisted that. He said, "It is written in your law, in your Mosaic law, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth

but I say unto you, love one another." And you know the Mosaic law was that a woman caught in adultery should be stoned to death but what did Jesus Christ say about that? Why when the case came before him he said, "Any among you who is without sin, just cast the first stone at her," and they didn't find anybody to throw any stones. And then he said, "Neither do I condemn thee. Go and sin no more." Now there is definite expressive

in that question last fall. You know what Christianity is. You know what the Mosaic Law is.

know what Paganism is. Which are you following? Are you following the old Mosaic law? Are wanting an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?

Are you in favor of capital punishment or are you following Jesus Christ?

Now its very evident that most of our laws are based upon the old law

of Asia. But do we Christians have to follow the law of killing a man

because he kills another? Why no the man made law recognizes and excuses

us. If you were called as a jury today to try a case of this kind, the

first thing that you would be asked is, "Do you believe in capital punish-

ment?" If you say, "Certainly not. I don't." You're excused. You've

got to believe in capital punishment. You've got to believe in killing

people because they have killed someone else. And a Christian should

easily discern whether he belongs to Jesus Christ, is a Christian, or

whether he belongs to the old dispensation. Now this is true in a

thousand different avenues, in a thousand different observances. We

find people quarreling over the observance of the Sabbath. There should be

no quarrel about that. Jesus Christ settled that. He said that the Sabbath

was made for man, not man for the Sabbath, That is a convenience for man.

Its good for us to observe at least one seventh of our time in the worship

of God. But if you have quickened the spiritual man, if you see the truth

as it is in the divine and under the divine law, you don't confine yourself

to one seventh of your time. You put in all your time, every instant in prayer.

I heard a lady say that every morning when she awoke she said, "Good morning God, its a beautiful day, isn't it?" And she said she talked to God just in that familiar way. She said it didn't make any difference to her whether it was stormy or snowing or raining but it was a good and beautiful day to her. Well now there is the inner spiritual consciousness. That is the Truth. Ruskin said, "All w ether is good wether. Its just different kinds of good wether." Well now just that idea of the good, of

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the Truth, of the divine Law, fixes in your mind and you'll see that the good will work out. That this law of love can be made operative under all circumstances and you'll straighten out every issue. And you will not only in detail recognize the law of man but you'll find unconsciously that you are observing that law. What I mean is that one who follows Jesus Christ and lives up to his standard, will never a law of the land in any of its particulars. But how many people are doing that? We think about our liberty. Kipling once said that he was for liberty of man. For that reason he never would give up to the restriction of ~~jail~~ ^{all}

houses. He said he liked his ale and he was going to have it. But one day he was in an ale house and four young people came in, two boys and two girls. And the boys supplied the girls with ale until they were drunk. And he said he was so disgusted with that and then he thought to himself, "Well, how did these four young fools come to have this liberty? How did they come in here and get drunk and display their silliness? He said, "That's silly to get drunk. I never get drunk." That's the way he put it. Not drunk of course, but I have to my liberty to have my glass of ale. And then he said it came to him, "Well, it maybe that I am

in a way responsible for this temptation. I demand my rights. I have control of myself. But here are others that haven't that same control. He said that after that he was for prohibition. Well now that is the awakening in that man of the Truth. He began to see that he must adjust himself to these outer things through the realization and consideration of others. We live in a dual world. And I may be perfectly safe, I maybe steeled against all the allurements of the world. I may not need the law at all but I know others that do need it. That should be taken into consideration and when we teach these high truths and through their realiza-

tion ourselves from the contamination of the world. Are we sure that all people have done that and if not, what is our place? Well people say, "It is telling the truth." Yes, it is telling the truth. But if man has made laws that are for the , the saving of other men, then we should recognize those laws. And in recognition we don't really come under the law. We don't have to come under the law. The divine law takes care of us. We're here in the world but not of it and people who are really living under this divine law are not subject to the man made laws nor does the man made laws interfere in any way. Jesus Christ you'll find, covered

this ground thoroughly. He even paid taxes. But he knew an easy way to get the money to pay the taxes. He found it in the fishes mouth. And he could work this divine law and bring about conditions and relations ~~that~~ in the outer that made **him** superior to any man made laws and we can do the same. Jesus said, "Follow me." Do as I do. Now that is a great lesson. that we are all to learn because as Peter said in the beginning of our text, "We're sojourners and pilgrims." What does that mean? Well, when you realize the omnipresence of God as light, as love, as intelligence, as that supreme spiritual being that is here waiting for us to make it

manifest. Why then when you realize that, you begin to recognize it, you begin to separate yourself from the ~~luxury~~ tenacity of the mind that clings to material things. And you see that you are not one of the mortal world. You live in another state of consciousness. These people that are drifting in the mortal world are sojourners; they are pilgrims. That isn't the real world. The real world is to be brought into expression. And we are here to do this mighty work of bringing into expression the world of spirit which is outlined and taught in symbols by Jesus Christ. He said the kingdom of the heavens is likened unto this and likened unto that.

Well now are we bringing this kingdom of the heavens into manifestation? That's the great work of every Christian. And I mean by that a christian is one who follows Jesus Christ; studies the life of Jesus Christ. And you'll find that it will open up to you. Study it in the spirit of independence, free from your preconceived notions it will open up to you an entirely new relation, not only of yourself but of your God and your relation to God. Now we must have a new and better understanding of God. We don't really understand God until we know the relation which what we call God bears to Spirit, and what Spirit is. People don't take time to

think about Spirit or spiritual things. They have a material heaven and a material God and everything in their so-called spiritual world is very material. But is that true of Spirit. Now if you think about Spirit, even look in the dictionary and get a description of Spirit it will open up a new relation to you. You really haven't thought definitely. You haven't used your minds and muscles. ~~We~~ have used the old line of thought and tried to make this new line of the Spirit be contained in the old cup, in the old vessel. It won't do. You must have a new consciousness. It won't do to put this new wine, this new spiritual life into the old wine

That's what the majority of people are trying to do. They call themselves Christians and their churches and their organizations, even their clubs, yes, their secular clubs, they have their smokers, and they play billiards and they dance and they do everything in the church. That's the modern church. Well is that different from the club? Not a bit. That isn't the church of Jesus Christ. ~~Why isn't it? Why isn't it?~~ Where is the church? Why it isn't in any external organization. It isn't the church of Jesus Christ. It is simply a gathering of people who are seeking to imitate the church of Jesus Christ. But Jesus Christ is the spiritual ideal existing as a body for

all so called churches, for all organizations. But before we can get right in this real church of Christ we must understand the spiritual substance. What is spiritual substance? Why its this thought substance out of which we are making manifest the material substance. And there is plenty of it here. Its all in your mind. Its a mind substance. And it is desire in which we are planting these thoughts, these words. And you get out of that whatever you put into it. So you are right now establishing this church of the Lord Jesus Christ in your mind first. And if we all establish it as it is in Spirit we have a new world, a new

civilization. Thats what we are all seeking. But before we can do that we must adjust ourselves to divine law. Now the divine law is that God is the source of all our good. There is no other source but the one. So we must arm ourselves with the Christ mind and you shall then withstand all the lusts of the flesh. Arm yourself with the Christ mind. That is, establish that Christ Mind in your mind and you'll find yourself lifted to another plane of consciousness. And these so called lusts of the flesh that make us believe when they are not fulfilled, that our rights are being trod upon, they will dissolve. Now thats a wonderful revelation.

I wish I could explain that to you so that everyone here would get it. That by an inner spiritual source of life you could adjust all your outer affairs and you would have no trouble at all in observing the divine law. People say, "If I adjusted myself to the inner law wouldn't I have to drive my automobile in just the old way? And wouldn't I be under the traffic laws? Wouldn't I have accidents? No. "Well, I'd be under the traffic law." No, you wouldn't. Why? Well the traffic law would be under you. That's it. You'd find that you'd drive your automobile with more safety, more dexterity, you'd get more speed out of it without being

pinched than you ever did before. You could do everything in a better way, a surer way. That's a fact. I'm telling you something that if you seek this kingdom and its righteousness, get in right relation with it, all these things shall be added unto you. Now this isn't but people are really trying it out in this day and age. Its never been really done before and when you preach this to old line Christians they shake their heads and that's fanaticism don't you know. Its common sense Its common sense to believe that there is a divine Power that will save us from all our deflections under this natural law. tell us that

our statute books are so that no man, even a Philadelphia lawyer can observe all of them. Why is it? Why we are trying in a mortal way to observe the law. We're making restrictions. We're passing legislative acts We're thinking through those things we're going to get people to make them follow the law. You can't do it. It never has been done. It never will be done! The only thing that will save the human family is the divine law and the central idea in that law is love, love is the fulfillment of the law. And love worketh no ill to his neighbor. If you ask that your mind, your heart and all of your affairs be under the divine law, you needn't

worry about the laws of the land. They will all be taken care of if you will just take this one issue: "I want peace. I want health. I want prosperity. I want wisdom and more light." Where shall I get that? Through the observance of the divine law taught by Jesus Christ. We find it in the Old Testament, we find it in the New. The Old Testament has the thread of gold running through it but it just needs revising. Jesus Christ revised it. He wasn't at all backward about calling the attention of those old Pharisees to their limitations.

but I say unto you

And they

said, "Where do you get authority for this? " He didn't tell them where he got it. But we know he got it directly from God. He got it from that same source that is open to everyone of us when we follow him we become individuals, we become more original; we have new inspiration, new understanding of ourselves and of God. Well lets take this wonderful Christian religion right home and lets be up to date; lets be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said so and so and I'm going to try it out. I'm not going to be afraid of being called a fanatic. I'm not going to be afraid that I can't do it because you never can tell until you try the proposition.

Now lets in conclusion take home everyone of us this thought that love worketh no ill to his neighbor and love is the fulfillment of the law.