

# Disturbing the World's Peace

When our Lord walked on this earth, He was not a mild preacher of innocuous platitudes that offended nobody. He lived in a storm. He aroused the violent opposition of bitter enemies, and it grew worse and worse until it crucified Him.

His followers created a commotion in every place they visited, disturbed the status quo and frequently landed in jail, many of them dying the death of martyrs.

Throughout church history the Gospel, when preached in purity and power, has upset the world, divided the people and incensed the powers of darkness. As long as it is revolutionary and not just resolutionary, Christianity upsets the community and enrages the Devil.

Today evil is more concentrated and sin more entrenched than in all past history; and, of all times, one would think this to be the time for Christianity to stand out in vivid contrast to prevalent godlessness.

But an alarming condition now prevails. Christianity has lost its cutting edge, and the heresy has gotten around that we are to be only pleasant, religious glad-handers, getting along with everything and everybody.

The average religious service has been described as "a mild-mannered man, standing before a congregation of mild-mannered people, exhorting everybody to be more mild-mannered."

How many churches do you know that are giving the Devil much cause for worry? How many religious enterprises are arousing entrenched evil in the neighborhood and making the enemy sit up late planning countermeasures? Our best endeavors these days are met, at most, by only a polite yawn. The liquor business, for instance, hardly knows that we are in town. We are not considered very dangerous to the forces of iniquity. We are stirring no resentment, no furious opposition.

Some time ago two students were discussing a certain "Christian" college. "Isn't it a religious school?" asked one. "Oh, yes," was the reply, "it is supposed to be, and there are some boys studying for the ministry, but you'd never know it!"

To be sure, our main business is not to stir up trouble and certainly not personal antagonism because of our wrong attitudes. But when Christianity is inoffensive, it is ineffective. The offense is the scandal of the cross. All we have to do is to be Christians and take our stand with Christ for right against wrong, and there will be trouble aplenty. If there is no trouble, then we have a denatured Christianity.

The world has put up a "Please Do Not Disturb" sign, and some churchmen are walking on tiptoe to respect it. They labor under the mistaken notion that it is unchristian to take a stand against anything.

The man who is not against something is not really for anything. In the very nature of the case, *to be for God with any fervor is to be opposed to evil with equal fire.* The degree of intensity with which we hate evil is a pretty good gauge of how much we love God.

Apart from the return of our Lord, the only possible hope today is for our churches to stop passing resolutions and begin promoting revolutions—the Acts-of-the-Apostles kind of revolutions that stir the community, agitate the ungodly, alarm the workers of iniquity and enrage the Devil. Anything is better than to be ignored. The church made greater strides when the wicked hurled brickbats at the saints instead of hanging bouquets on them for being nice, inoffensive people who never interfere with the program of Satan.

God make us disturbers of this world's false peace!

—Sword of the Lord

## IF GOD FORGOT

If God forgot the world for just one day,  
Then little children would not laugh and play  
Birds would not in the leafy woodlands sing.  
And roses would not beautify the spring.

No gentle showers throughout the summer long,  
No autumn fields to cheer the heart with song,  
No rising sun, no moon to give its light,  
No placid lake reflect the stars of night.

No friend to help us on the toilsome road,  
No one to help us bear the heavy load,  
No light to shine upon the pilgrim way,  
No one to care, or wipe the tear away.

No listening ear to hear the lost one call,  
No eye to see the righteous battler fall,  
No balm of Gilead to dull the throbbing pain  
No one to comfort and sustain.

Millions would die in unforgiven sin,  
With none to bring the lost and straying in;  
Yes, this great universe would melt away,  
If God forgot the world for just one day.

James M. Gray

## WHY SHOULD HE DIE FOR SUCH AS I?

In everything both great and small,  
We see the hand of God in all.

And in the miracles of Spring,  
When every where in every thing,  
His handiwork is all around;  
And every lovely sight and sound,

Proclaims the God of earth and sky;  
I ask myself, "Just who am I?  
That God should send His only Son,  
That my salvation would be won.

Upon a Cross by a sinless Man,  
To bring fulfillment to God's plan."  
For Jesus suffered, bled, and died,  
That sinners might be sanctified.

And to grant God's children such as I,  
Eternal life in that home on high.

—Helen Steiner Rice