CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY IN AN INCREASINGLY NON CHRISTIAN AGE

It has been said that people often deserve the kind of government that they have. One wonders about this when considering such governments as the government of the Soviet Union. When I was in Scotland in 1979, walking up toward the University of Edinborough I happened to see a copy of Solzhenitsyn's little book, "Lenin in Zurich." This small book details the life of Lenin when he was in Zurich, prior to returning to Russia in 1917 to take the reigns of the Russian Revolution. At that particular time, it was the desire of the Russian people to have a democracy in which the lot of the common man would be elevated. However, Lenin seized the opportunity presented to him, having organized in his mind the way in which the disorder which was present in Russia could be used for his advantage and the advantage of the Bolsheviks. He had planned for years and had studied very ardently all of the facets of the French Revolution. Thus he was able not only to destroy the Russian monarchy but he was able to destroy the very roots of freedom and democracy—substituting a form of terror and repression which has seldom been equalled in this world. How one could say that the Russian people deserved the form of government which they have received, is most difficult to say. It is also difficult to say that the German people truly deserved the Nazi dictatorship of Hitler.

It would seem that the common man has the desire to live in peace and to raise his family in contentment and in the ability to earn his daily bread and take care of his own financial responsibilities. Beyond this, the average person does not particularly desire to involve himself in the local or national political strategies and power struggles. The Christian is particularly content to achieve happiness in his own little sphere and beyond his family, includes his local church in his sphere of responsibility. When Canada and the United States were in their early years and most of the people in both countries were Christian, it was possible to elect officials in government who had similar points of view to the majority of the citizenry. However, as time has gone on and anti-Christian forces have increased in our lands, more and more of the representatives of Parliament have not been vitally oriented toward Christian principles and vital contact between the people and the government has gradually been lost. One might raise the cry, which was one of the rallying calls of the American Revolution that we have "taxation without representation." This of course, in our day and age, is basically our own fault. Christians tend to sit back and allow more dissident elements of society to force themselves into positions of authority. People who have been repressed in their native countries—such as Poland and Ireland, the South American countries and the Orient as well as the Middle East—tend to seek representation in government so that their people and their points of view can receive representation. Thus we see the strange phenomenon in our time that while Christians in our nations are still in the majority, we are—by and large—treated as a minority. This is also true of conservatism. Most Christians find themselves to be basically conservative in their points of view, insofar as government policy is concerned. However, as time has gone on, more and more liberal representatives (including the Prime Minister himself) have tended to be in positions of authority so that the conservative point of view is rarely given emphasis.

This is particularly important in view of the recent resignation of Pierre Trudeau as Prime Minister of Canada. It could be that Canada will follow the United States and Great Britain and again re-institute a Conservative government.
of a conservative point of view in the office of Prime Minister but in
those offices beneath the Prime Minister and in the Parliament.
Conservatism itself however, is rarely the answer unless there is with it a
renewed call to vital New Testament Christianity.

It is hoped that the endeavors of Christian Medical Foundation in
Medicine and Nursing as well as the endeavors of such kindred organizations
as Full Gospel Businessmen and Women's Aglow as they find themselves
extending outward into the smaller towns and villages of Canada, will spark
a renewed sense of responsibility and endeavor on the part of individual
Christians across both Canada and the United States. It is also hoped that
when men come on fire for Christ, they will see that they have a
responsibility not only to their families and to the local church, but also
to their communities, their provinces and to the nation. It could be that
as a result of the Charismatic renewal in the nations, there will be a
concerted effort on the part of Christians to place responsible and
responsive Christians back in government and in positions of authority--
both locally and nationally. It is also seen as an absolute essential that
this occur in the system of education and the church itself. Christian
people are dismayed to see the lack of vital Christianity in schools, in
theological education and in the local pulpits. As this tendency to
deteriorate continues there is seen a progressive lack of morality and the
inroads of the drug culture and the immoral structure of paganism tends to
take hold more and more. There is only one answer to all of this. We
commend a great move toward a Bible based vital Holy Spirit empowered
Christianity to be carried by vital men and women into the very centers of
education, politics, theology, government and medicine. This may seem like
an overly optimistic point of view, but when one considers that every major
challenge that has come before the western nations in the last 200 years or
more, has been met by a massive turning of the nations toward Christ and a
re-institution or a continued institution of Christian principle in every
phase of life. This does not mean a Puritanical narrowness or a Cromwellian
destructiveness of the symbols of Christianity, but it means an
interdenominational re-emphasis throughout all the denominational
structures upon the vital principles of New Testament Christianity,
unfettered by pseudo-intellectualism and Newtonian science and uncorrupted
through the inroads of Far Eastern philosophy and psychic invasiveness. As
men again turn to Christ and seek personal Salvation and the washing away
of sins through the Blood of Jesus and the personal empowerment of the
individual life through the fullness of the Holy Spirit, we will again
begin to see in our time, a recapturing of the dream of a Free Society, and
the throwing off of the fetters of immorality, alcoholism, drug hypnosis
and mental and psychic error. Let us pray for a new era of the Spirit, and
a new discovery of the Word of God as we confront the challenge of the
1980's and Christian responsibility in our individual lives and
professions.

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