"The Sky is Red"

"He answered and said unto them, 'When it is evening ye say it will be fair weather; for THE SKY IS RED... ye can discern the face of the sky but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" Matt. 16:2.

"We are living in one of those rare periods of time from which greatness can emerge through the renewal of the human spirit by a more vital contact with the great Spirit. Such moments, so pregnant with tremendous possibilities, are not often vouchsafed to man. A sweeping movement climbing upward toward the building of the world of our dreams—or, a spiral downward toward disaster, seems to lie just beyond the border of our day. One cannot view with serenity the possibility of our failing to take advantage of this supreme moment in time. Out of such periods magnificence comes. The Christian Church has an opportunity now, which, if she lets slip through her hands, she may never have again. She must prove hersolf worthy of the leadership demanded of her. She will serve the modern world with Christian greatness or BE REPUDIATED BY IT. THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST WILL NOT LEAVE THE EARTH, BUT HIS SPIRIT WILL LIVE IN INSTITUTIONS OTHER THAN OUR OWN."—Closing paragraph of "THE SKY IS RED" by Dr. Jean S. Milner, Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, U. S. A.

> BY FRANK B. ROBINSON Founder of "PSYCHIANA" Moscow, Idaho

To All Protestant Ministers

After a lifetime's thought and study, and with an earnest desire that the present day Protestant Church do something which will honor God and save the world, thus making it a worthy vehicle to fulfill its divine mission, I suggest to it the following method of procedure. If this plan is followed, it will win for God, not only the United States, but the entire world. For ten years I have seen the invisible Spirit of God work in the lives of men and women who refuse to go inside a church. I have seen illness and disease cured by what might be called "miraculous" methods—yet it was done in and through the Power of the mighty Life-Spirit—God. I have read the story of thousands of lives—responding by mail, to the promptings of the Spirit of God, and it is with an earnest desire, fortified with a spiritual prophetic vision which causes me to send out this message to you. Read it carefully. Think it over prayerfully. Something like this will have to be done or, what Dr. Milner says may happen—will happen. The handwriting is on the wall—let us read it aright.

The Situation

For some reason, its own leaders have been saying and continue to say that the preaching and teaching of the Protestant Church is not registering or accomplishing what it should in the minds and the hearts of too many people of the religious world; that its missionary program for the extension of the Realm of God is on the wane and no longer appeals to either the vision of the young or the pocketbooks of the old as does that of the Mormon Church, for example, appeal to its membership as a whole; that it seems utterly powerless to stem the tide of war, crime, poverty, greed, graft, sickness, discontent, hatred, envy, and snobbishness; and that in its four hundred years of existence, it never has been able to do these things in the way taught and preached by the Nazarene Carpenter, under the name of whom they are enrolled to teach, preach, and work.

This condition seems to bring discredit on the name and cause of God—the Infinite Maker and Sustainer of the Universe, which cares for us here and now, materially, physically, and spiritually, even as It has noted each sparrow's fall long before and since history began. For some reason or other, men and women do not seem to be interested in church teaching and preaching, and never seeing any special manifestation or demonstration of a "divine" power in the church, of which they may or may not have been members, they have grown to believe that no such power exists. For this reason, they are neither hot nor cold—they just simply are not interested.

The hope of heaven and the fear of hell has been repeatedly preached until all good folks know the story from end to end. Yet many refuse to take either story seriously as they "cut" church services for a ten cent show, a joy ride, or with no other substitute whatsoever in sight. Again, in plain words, they are not interested in the teaching, preaching or the program the church has to offer. Its story does not intrigue them—let alone save them. It is not powerful enough to hold even its own members and the records of both colleges and universities seem to show more than half of the young folks from church homes have not seen fit to enroll as members in the church, preferred by either themselves or their parents.

This condition is not the fault of the world, nor is it the fault of the folks, for most of them never asked the Church to come to them with any special message or teaching of any kind, but the Church, believing in its "divine" power and authority, four hundred years ago, substituted opinions about Christ, that had been handed down to it from the days of Constantine and after that time, for the actual teachings of Christ as given in the Sermon on the Mount and other New Testament passages.

However, if this church teaching is to straighten out the world; if it is divinely inspired; and if there be no other story, given among men whereby the world may be saved, it seems that a trace of real old-fashioned honesty in the outstanding leaders of the Protestant world is impelling them to admit that the message they have been preaching has failed to impress the great majority of folks and that, by no stretch of the imagination, can the blame be placed upon the folks. If the story with which the church comes to men and women is true and of God, there must be a dynamic power in it somewhere. But as the world has not seen, felt or known that power, it is helpless in the present crisis and it cannot mend the social structure or heal the broken lives. In short, it needs new vision, new purpose, new power and new persistency. Whether that is the fault of the teaching, the preaching or the pastoral work is beside the question here. The pertinent thing is that the work is not registering in the hearts of men and women, when a football game can draw hundreds of thousands, while the church with all its claim of "divine" power is endeavoring to carry on with its half-filled auditoriums, returned missionaries, closed colleges, decrease in young folks, unpaid bills, underpaid preachers and much-discussed budgets that are an utter stranger to anything that is even akin to a balance.

Leaving out of the question entirely the merit of the preaching, the teaching, or the work of the churches, all honest and well-read ministers know all about the warnings Doctors Stanley Jones, Daniel Poling, Jean S. Milner, Daniel Dorchester and many others have issued. Yes, there is danger ahead and as Bishop Tucker of the Episcopal church recently stated: "Unless the Christian Church develops an enthusiasm for its work, comparable to that of Soviet Russia or warring Japan, THE CHRISTIAN CAUSE MAY FAIL AND PASS OUT OF EXISTENCE." Or rather as Dr. Milner has already stated it, in a more hopeful way, "The Spirit of Christ (GOD) will not leave the earth, but HIS SPIRIT WILL LIVE IN INSTITUTIONS OTHER THAN OUR OWN." Truly the Sky is Red.

The Way Out

Now, as I understand it, the Christian Church is supposed to teach that Jesus Christ came to reveal the Holy Spirit or the Spirit of God—that invisible Spirit which the Church tells us is the third person in the Trinity. Then of course we are hoping that the Protestant Christian Church, from now on, is going to do much more manifesting of its "divine" power. My best suggestion is that each and every one of you from now on, base your sermons and your teaching on the Spirit of God, as Jesus Christ preached, taught and lived in touch, in tune, and in harmony with this same Spirit of the Power of the Living God, as He said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. He that believeth in Me, the works that I do, shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do. If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you."

If you will do just this thing, I see a beautiful salvation for all in His name and in the name of His church. I see the Spirit of God manifesting on this earth in an unmistakable manner. I see it healing diseases. I see it bringing the Infinite Power of the Infinite God to men and women and bringing it to them literally and liberally. I see men and women enthused as they learn of the existence of this great divine, invisible Spirit of God—enthused at the possibilities of what that Presence means to them. For, if the Spirit of God, is the Spirit of the great Creator of this Universe—the Spirit which moment by moment sustains it—then I see men's hearts gladdened at hearing that such an invisible God-Spirit does exist.

As both you and your Church know, men and women today are longing and hungering for God. Then, if your message of the existence of the Spirit of God, existing here and now, right where you are and all around and about you, is preached to them do you not think and realize that they will want just that thing, especially if its preaching is accompanied by actual evidence of what this dynamic, invisible God-Spirit can do in human lives. You know they will want that kind of a power and with you, I realize that for some four hundred years, our Protestant churches have sort of specialized on some of the traditions we inherited from the time of Constantine, with its political combinations and machinations. However, in view of the lack of results, I know you will agree with me in the thought that it will be a good thing to specialize on the Power of the Spirit of God for the next few years.

Though, at present, I am not a church member, I love the Church and this message to your Church and to you, comes from a heart full of love for both of you, coupled with ten years actual experience in teaching the present existence of the Power of the Spirit of God and witnessing its remarkable manifestations. I have had to charge for lessons to keep going, advertise in papers, magazines and by radio, and work hard and long both at home and on the road, yet not a day passes in which many do not tell me in unmistakable terms what the Power of the Great Life Spirit (GOD) has done for them. Of course, with your background of preparation and experience, you already realize that if these manifestations can be made by the Church, it will win the world to believe in the actual presence of the power of the Spirit of God. No other way can or will save this world, for the whole message of Jesus Christ was of HIS FATHER— GOD, not of Himself.

It will take more than the traditions of the past to save this world. IT WILL TAKE THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD TO DO THAT. THIS POWER AND THIS PREACHING, coupled with the manifestations of "divine" power, can and will save the world. The work will begin the moment you, Catholic or Protestant, begin to teach and preach the present existence of the most dynamic Power this world has ever known, THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD. For this reason, I make the suggestion and extend a most cordial invitation for you to do just this thing. If you do not, the Power of God will continue to be manifested through mine and other movements. However, the work of God belongs to the Church and yours is the task to lead in the greatest opportunity the world has known since the days when the Carpenter Man of Galilee went about just doing good. Diseases healed. Lives made happy. Poverty, war, sin, crime on the way out. May the Spirit of God help you to see what and when the next religious revival will be, and may that same Spirit give you vision, strength and grace enough to see that this revival occurs INSIDE the doors of the Church and not on the outside.