

The Princeton Seminary Bulletin

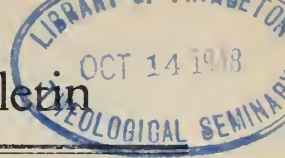


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curing war and peace and war be broken?

Who and what will decide? So far as I can see there is only one possible means of escape. That is the way that Christ pointed out 1900 years ago.

In these solemn days when forces are being shaped which within a decade or two will bring either new advances in human destiny or the utter ruin of Western civilization, the issue depends in the last analysis not upon decisions taken in Washington. It depends upon which course the millions and millions

of individual men and women in the factory and on the farm and in the mine and in the home will follow. If men and women can turn back to God and take the hand of Christ and learn of Him, there is nothing to fear.

You men of Princeton Seminary are now enlisting on a very great mission. If your work be well done, you can have a momentous part in the awesome decision. I bid you be very proud—and very humble. God waits with hope.

THE ENDLESS JOURNEY STARTS

JOHN A. MACKAY

Members of the Graduating Group:

IT falls to me, in the name of my colleagues of the Faculty and of your fellow students here and already gone, to address to you the traditional words of farewell.

For some months past my mind has been haunted by a line of poetry written by a contemporary poet, the words of which run thus: "O here and now our endless journey starts." The author is W. H. Auden and the line I have quoted he puts into the mouth of the shepherds of Bethlehem when they came and saw the Child in the manger.

These haunting words have a deep significance for you and for me. Let me, in a very few minutes, translate to you what they have signified for me personally.

Remember, to begin with, that *real life starts from Jesus Christ*. For us Christians, truth is not something that we pursue endlessly like a bird. It is

something from which we start. It is Jesus Christ, the Truth. It is not that we understand all that this Truth means, but it grips us in such a way that we know that it is the true meaning of life. And so our interest in truth, henceforth to the end of the road, will consist in understanding Jesus Christ, the personal truth, and in translating into life, our own lives and the lives of others, its inner meaning and implications.

But let us never forget that we can never truly represent Jesus Christ, the Truth, unless our lives become in a very real and reverent sense the incarnation of that Truth. We start from Light. The luster in our eyes, the torch in our hand, both illuminated by Christ, will serve us to understand life and to apply Christian principles to life. Our whole life must be aflame. Our hearts must burn and our lips break into singing, and our chief witness, our most decisive witness to our generation, in

every sphere where providence may lead us, shall be by our life to remind men of His life. It is no exaggeration to say that what our generation awaits, if those glorious Christian ideals set forth in the vibrant address of our Commencement speaker are to be fulfilled, is men and women who are fully Christian, not simply in their thinking but in their living, who are moving out into life with the light and the love of Jesus Christ.

This line has meant something more to me. It says: *Maintain throughout life the sense of pilgrimage.* To discover Christ is not merely the end of a quest. It is rather the beginning of a journey. Our generation with its hosts of uprooted people, with its multitude of wayfaring men and women, understands this word "pilgrimage." Christianity has always understood the meaning of pilgrimage. A sense of pilgrimage is the core of the Christian way of life. May I ask you not to make position the end of your course as you move out. Positions will come to you, but do not think of them as pedestals or as places of prestige. Think only of a position as a place to perform a task. In your spirits be steadfastly moving on, with a consuming concern to be on pilgrimage, doing Christ's will, fulfilling what you found when you began from here.

Lovely things also will come to you, many things that you will cherish, that you will be proud to have. Remember this. Do not use them for ostentation but only for inspiration. Look at them. Cherish them. Get out of them what they can tell you or give you. Then lay them aside and move on. Miguel de Unamuno, one of the greatest of modern writers, in what I believe is the most vibrant piece of contemporary

prose, says, if I may paraphrase his words: You pilgrims, you crusaders on life's road, if you find a flower blooming by the wayside, pluck it and take it along with you. If you use it to inspire you for the pilgrimage, for the great crusade, good and well. But if any pilgrim should use that flower for ostentation, throw him out and let the cavalcade move on.

Like so much that Unamuno wrote this sentiment of his may be perhaps a little extreme. But the great Spaniard is basically right. Whatever comes to us that we deeply cherish, let us use it to inspire us, but not to make a show of it. Then let us move on to other things, to other tasks, to other fields, to other endeavors.

Finally, as you start from Christ and move out on your pilgrim way, *never cease to be persons.* What is a person? In its deepest Christian significance a person is one who responds to God. One becomes a person when one hears the Word of God and does it. A person takes to the road as a pilgrim not knowing whither he goes, but knowing that God knows. A true person, one who lives day by day by the Word of God, who listens for God's command and does God's will, fulfills the answer to that most basic of all questions: "What is the chief end of man?" "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." To glorify God, what does that mean? To make God visible in life, in both thought and behavior, to the end of the road. And so for you, and for me, and for all who call Jesus Lord, Auden's line has meaning. "O here and now our endless journey starts."

As we go on pilgrimage together, taking different roads, never meeting perchance as a group all in one place

again, may we find in this living Truth what we need for light and for life. May we discover in the Christ of the pilgrim way all that we lack for cour-

age and for strength from now to the journey's end.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

In addition to the contributors mentioned in the Editorial of this Bulletin, Dr. Emile Cailliet has permitted the publication of his address "Outlines of a Christian Positivism," which he delivered in Miller Chapel on April 27, 1948, when he was inaugurated as

Professor in the Stuart Chair of Christian Philosophy. It is a pleasure, also, to present "The Charge to Dr. Cailliet," delivered by the Reverend Harold E. Nicely, D.D., pastor of the Brick Church, Rochester, New York.

DICKENS' CHRISTMAS CAROL

While there was some delay in the finishing of the records of the reading by Dr. Donald Wheeler of *A Christmas Carol*, the albums are now ready and all orders have been filled. The

albums of seven twelve-inch records can be purchased from the Marquis Recording Company, 212 '03 Hall, Princeton, New Jersey.