

Intro: The big question before us, isolation, or intervention. This is the question of foreign affairs, America is divided into at least two groups,--those who believe in isolation, and those who believe in intervention. Should we confine our interest to America alone, and let the rest of the world go by We have debated this issue for years.

This is also a question for the church. Shall we be spiritual isolationists or interventionists? The one who believes in isolation believes that we have no interest in the political, the business, the social, or the moral life of our community. Religion has no business to become involved in worldly matters.

On the other hand the interventionist believes that we should express our Christian convictions in our community life. If any man be in Christ he is a new creature,--old things are passed away. As a result of this experienced with Christ, he is disappointed if this change does not show evidence. This new life cannot be lived in a vacuum. The Christian life demands a new environment. A man cannot live this new life and be satisfied that beer gardens are open 7 days a week, that the Lord's Day is used for commercial purposes, recreation and amusement, where gambling flourishes, without making a protest. *He is pleased with an epidemic of signs spanking in store windows - begun on Sunday.*

I. What is being done around the U.S.

Penn. - They have organized and have a field day when the legislative body of the state gathers with church leaders, the governor's cabinet, and when the entire state government practically closes down for 3 hours to meet with these leaders where they hear speeches on the moral issues, and also about the Lord's Day.

Kansas - The Watchman Examiner states a boycott against stores who remain open on Sunday is being advocated by the ministers of Kansas City. Churches have adopted resolutions urging their congregations not to patronize such stores.

Colorado - The same paper states that petitions urging a city referendum on Sunday closing of grocery stores are being circulated in the churches of Pueblo, petitions were also being made available at some grocery stores, as grocers volunteered as individuals to support the plan.

Pueblo

*A. Basium Man called me yesterday - showed you for you letter & Resolution - count on me to cooperate - He is the a human good guy - we are with you.*

cooperation of all to enable South Norfolk to lead the way, in the restoration of a peaceful Lord's Day.

I feel that now is the hour for us to do something if it is to be accomplished. It is very much like the story the president told, of the (negro) who had been drinking and appeared before the judge, being charged with setting the bed on fire. And the man said to the judge, "No your honor it was on fire when I got in it." So it seems that we need not wait any longer. This thing is rapidly catching fire, and soon the entire city will be commercialized 7 days a week.

*Who started This Mess: The Xhins - The Big. ch. - This hush. But citizen I can go in the procho Re Bill -*

III. What about those who break the Lord's Day.

1. They vote to close the church. Perhaps not intentionally, but they vote to close the church and the Bible, they vote for the Preacher to cease preaching the wonderful truths of God's word. They vote to close up Sunday School where no longer little children can be taught. They vote for our missionaries to be called home. They vote for our Christian colleges, schools, and hospitals, to be closed.

2. They are thieves.

In my estimation, those who desecrate the Lord's Day, compose the worst bunch of thieves out of hell. It robs the Christian of much of his joy. It robs people of their allegiance to Christ, and it will rob the believer of his reward in eternity. I am confident that when we fight evil, we are naturally going to make some enemies. The natural man does not like the things of God, now does he have any respect for the Lord's Day. I am also confident that the devil does not like it, and let me tell you ~~who/it~~ he is no myth or no mere influence, and he is doing all to wreck the program of God's creation. What a victory when he gets people when he gets people to desecrate the Lord's Day. Then the home and the community and the nation and the world all go down to defeat. In some parts of Europe the Lord's Day is only a holiday. Here in America, we have also turned it into such a day. You say, I am a joy-killer, but I submit to you that the infidels and sabbath-breakers, take away the real joy, they rob people of health. No man can say, keeping the Lord's day broke my health, or took away my wealth. All of the folks who make money on the Lord's Day are enemies of the

New Jersey - The pastor of the first Baptist Church of Merchantsville, N. J. was elected the secretary of the Lord's Day Allies of N. J. As chairman he said, "We will work against legalized gambling, and bingo on Sunday."

Philadelphia - On May 16, Ringling Bros. Circus announced that they would stage a Sunday show on May 30. It would have been the first circus performance ever held in Philadelphia on Sunday. Billboards, newspapers, announced such. A formal protest was filed with the police commissioner, and he informed the circus that they could not show. They claimed that this was for charity and they felt that this would remove all protest to desecration of Sunday. But the show closed on Saturday night.

Enid, Okla. - A drive by the ministers of the city resulted in the closing of all local grocery stores, and the paper described Enid as the worst city in the state for open Sunday business. The president of Enid grocery association said, there would be no exceptions on the closing agreement on the part of the grocerymen. All stores are cooperating to raise the standards of the grocery business in Enid. The city commission joined the ministers in the drive.

## II. What is being done around Tidewater?

Norfolk - A few months ago this issue came to the forefront in Norfolk, and at that time the ministerial union of which Mr. White of St. Andrews was moderator, took steps and held meetings with the merchants, and brought about a moderate change. Also at that same time, 80 women representing 8 different Protestant denominations voted their disapproval at the desecration of the Lord's Day, in a meeting at the Y.W.C.A. Mrs. Harmon Jones, stated to the newspapers that "We will not sanction the opening of grocery stores, and we will not support them. The women were enthusiastic because they could do something about the resolution besides passing it, since they do the marketing, and could refuse to buy from stores that persist in remaining open. The federation had plans to go before the city council and also to seek an ordinance prohibiting the practice, if necessary."

Mr. James E. Harrell, then president of the Norfolk Food Dealers Association, stated that all had come to an agreement and that beyond one or two, they would all voluntarily begin closing on Sunday. George Ames, the Ex. Sec. of the association said at that time, "There has been no real problem in getting grocers to close on Sunday, we only need to select one particular time for all to start at the same time." He further stated that the response of the large volume grocers with only two exceptions, and there were some smaller merchants who were reluctant to close, but even though they realized the good of the community is not served by their personal desire for gain, they planned to go along with the group.

But at the present time, there is a question mark, as to whether Norfolk is doing anything at all, in regard to this important question.

Portsmouth - It seems that Portsmouth has outdistanced all of Tidewater put together. In last Thursday's paper, Neal Ellis, pastor of South Street Baptist Church, stated that a citizens league for law enforcement has been organized and that they will insist on the enforcement of the statutes. The section known as the blue laws, must be enforced. He stated it was not the purpose of the citizen's league to usurp the police powers and duties, but he felt that the Commonwealth Attorney would take steps to protect citizens against social abusement. More than two thousand citizens had signed a petition addressed to the league, insisting that they use their influence to see that the law is enforced.

South Norfolk - Thus far, several business men have voiced protests, the city council voted disapproval. What however I feel sure at least some of them, have spoken against it. One has called me and stated as much. From this church our voice has been positive without fear or sentiment, we have expressed what we feel the Bible teaches. I have two letters, one sent to 363 churches in Tidewater, in which we ask the churches to take some formal action and aid in the recapture of the Lord's Day for the purpose set forth in the Bible. In the other letter, of which some 333 were sent out to merchants, businessmen in the city of South Norfolk, we called upon men of integrity to press the battle, we invited those who now operate on Sunday, to consider closing. We sought the

3. What does God say?

God says, use not your hands for instruments of unrighteousness, He is asking you today, what is in your hand? Is it a wine cup? Is it a gambler's tool? Is a cash register ringing up sales in a place of business? Is it merchandise?

Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love.

Psalm 24:3 & 4

"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place. He that hath clean hands and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity,"

We need to see to it that our hands are instruments of righteousness, but the Lord will reward. Ps. 18:20-24. Are you going to let the devil use your hands for his work? Will you perish as the man in Pompeii, clutching a bag of gold? Perished with his money.

Your hands are not tied. However, sin ties our hands, it was sin that tied Ephraim hands. Years ago the world's and the devils crowd sought to tie a young man's hands. They said he was crazy. He politicians said get out. The religious folks said don't interfere with our form of worship. They went so far as to nail his hands to a tree. Spikes pierced the palms. They said we have tied his hands, he will not interfere. We can open up our business places, forget all about worship, gamble for his garments. His hands bound with a shroud, placed in a tomb. But wait, the storm roars, the resurrection takes place, his hands are free, they will now be extended to all. The nail-scarred hands, bruised by the hammer, are hands of power.

"Lord, when I am weary with toiling  
And burdensome seem thy commands  
If my load should lead to complaining  
Lord, show me thy hands,  
Thy nail pierced hands  
Thy cross torn hands

My Saviour, show me thy hands."

Samson, - hands bound with new ropes, the Philistines came upon him, he'd break them from off his arms like a thread. My hands are tied, my boss, my company, my customers, my this...and the other Philistines are like threads, if you want to break them.

church, and are committing sin. The picture shows, the dance halls, the filling stations, the grocery stores, the whole crowd, would like to have free reign, and if these men involved were seriously questioned, you would find that they are not real friends of Jesus. These fellows better enjoy their money that they make out of this sin, while on earth, because it is blood money, there is a God, and God has a judgment, and after judgment, an eternity, and in eternity he provides a hell. You can sing *Dishonest with young - your church, those who work for you* -

Now there are some church members who know the Bible, and who know that I am on the right side, but instead of repenting and humbling themselves before God, they will say, he's just out of date. But I will never be guilty of lining up with Satan to destroy the Lord's Day.

3. This is on a par with communism. People say, well it isn't so bad. Some people say, well just wait and see what happens. Some even feel, well communism has a lot of good things to offer and probably there are a lot of good people who don't have time to buy this stuff any other time except on Sunday, and so brother Preacher you ought to pacify these and compromise and what would happen. Like the fed shirted communist, step by step, while Americans, Englishmen, and the world looked on, they took all of China. And the same thing will happen here, if this communist propaganda and practice is allowed to continue, you'll be able to buy a suit of clothes, do any kind of business you like, and so we just say smooth things about it, and say, why trouble. It reminds me of Juce who was digging a ditch, and a man came by and he said, "Can I cross here, --it's two much trouble to walk around by the bridge, --I've got my boots on and I thought I might brows here, as I don't have a lot of time to walk around." Juce says, "I don't know, I don't think it's very deep," so he stepped in and went over his head. Finally Juce pulled him out on the other side, and spitting and sputtering he said, "I thought you said it wasn't deep." "Well, I didn't think it was, I saw a couple of ducks about this high just cross ahead of you, and they made it."

And so the man who keeps open on Sunday says, "We're not hurting anybody," And the first thing you know, the whole town will be plunged and submerged in this stream of desecration

4. Some try to be smart.

Some operators on Sunday, say, "Well, it's our business, and we can just do what we want to do." Reminds me of a man, an irreligious farmer in a western state wrote a letter to the local newspaper. "Sir, I've tried an experiment I ploughed, planted, cultivated, harvested, all on Sunday, and now mister editor, what is the result, I made more bushels to the acre than any of my neighbors this October." He expected the applause of the editor, but underneath the editor published a line or two of comment as follows: "God does not always settle his account in October."

IV. What are you going to do?

1. My hands are tied, you say. Had you ever thought of the fact that we tie things often without rope. Now here's an account in the Bible, in the period of the judges, Israel was learning to live as a nation. Gideon sent forth a message to inform the people Ephraim and to rally them to help in the country's deliverance. (v. 1)- Instead of congratulating Gideon, they picked a quarrel with him, because they had not shared in the glory and victory.

V. G - Gideon makes his reply - your hands were not tied. If you were patriotic you would have volunteered. You knew the enemy was in this country. ~~You knew~~ the enemy was in the country, he was collecting forces to fight, but cowards always seem strong when the danger is over.

This same thing was repeated in ch. 12. They wanted credit again, but ~~Jephthah~~ Jephthah said, Your hands are not tied. In fact in verse 6, he challenged them to see whether they could pronounce the word shibboleth, and if he said shibboleth, and could not pronounce it right, they took him and slew him, 42,000 fell.

Your hands are not tied today. and there are always some ~~shortcuts~~ in the crowd who would like to find fault with anybody who would lead out in a cause for Christ.

There are still people who cannot serve Christ because they say their hands are tied. They shrink from a difficult task. They do not mind sharing in the honor, but their hands are tied.

*You fight for 40 hrs. week - Now work all time.*

*with his family was - Have time & love. Many things could be worked out - to find the store curtain torn. - Dr. do not let the st. ask - Major do not - but to fight - Band seems to continue to day it*

We today perhaps, could discover, those who will work for Jesus, but the way they talk and the way they act.

We are all informed of this great common task. Ephraim was informed. They knew, they just pleaded, their hands were tied. They could have helped if they would have. You take our churches, our Sunday Schools, our civic organizations, but are they concerned? Not surprised of them, let me hear from you, I already have some letters it

Now I will be through in a little while. You know a mother carried her little girl to church one Sunday, the preacher preached on and on and on, the little girl had gone through her mother's pocketbook, 2 or 3 times. She had counted up to 197 in the hymnbook. She had been on the floor, she had crawled under the pew, she was now scribbling on a piece of paper, and the preacher was telling a sad story. And the tears were running down mother's cheeks. The little girl, not aware of what was going on, suddenly noticed the tears, reached up and patted her mother on the cheek, and said, "Now Mother, don't you cry, he will be through in a minute."

2.

People in the Bible had free hands God asked Moses "What is in thine hand?" Mosses mentioned the difficulties, God said, Take hold of the serpent and it became a rod. He found that even a weak faith, could become an element of power.

Ask Joshua - a spear, hold it aloft, and stretch it toward Ai,--there was a great victory,

Ask Shamgar - only an oxgoad - 600 Philistines fell before it.

Ask Gideon - only lamps, pitcher, trumpets, the midianites were defeated.

Ask Samson - the jawbone of an ass - won a victory slew a thousand men. A

Ask the young lad - 5 loaves and two fishes, fed a multitude.

Ask Mary - an alabaster box of ointment. They all had free hands.

So. May - June 22, 1951 (Original) Puffed

Empty Hands: Should have no pockets. After that, "I don't want to handle things my friend that people may see that they are empty."  
No Man goes through the valley of death in a limousine or airplane.  
What will you do?

ARE YOUR HANDS TIED? Judges 8:1-3, Judges 12:1-6

Intro. Had you ever thought of the fact that we tie things often without ropes? That is to say that we block off shut off by our actions or deeds.

Do you ever recall having asked someone to help you do something and they replied, "I'd like to, but my hands are tied." I personally recall this answer quite a number of times in seeking church workers.

An up to date illustration of a man whose hands were not tied is Jersey Joe Walcott. This man, who had been on relief getting nine dollars and a half a week to support 6 children made \$50,000 in about a half a hour because his hands were not tied. The thing I liked about Walcott was that he wasn't ashamed to encourage young people to go to Sunday School and church, because he stated "If God is on your side, you're bound to win."

I. Two Bible accounts

Now to get on with our text. We have two identical examples concerning the same people.

1. Judges 8:1-3 By way of explanation, the period of the judges is sort of considered as the Dark Ages, because Israel is learning to be a nation and to live as a nation. They were slaves in Egypt and now they are trying to rule themselves.

For a clear insight into the scripture at hand, we drop back to chapter 7:24 where Gideon sent a message to inform the people of Ephraim and roused them to engage in helping forward the common cause of their country's deliverance.

Verse 1 Instead of congratulating Gideon for his success, the men of Ephraim picked a quarrel. Why did you not call us, when thou wentest to fight.

We must remember here that Ephraim was the brother to Manasseh, Gideon's tribe, therefore, they were jealous less Manasseh get more honor. This was an unjust quarrel, but because they had not been called to lead the parade, they were discontented.

4. A great deal is revealed by our speech. Now Jephthah determined whether or not one was a refugee or a rebel by his talk. It was a test of speech applied that brought them into the trap of destruction.

We have a different way of speech in the north and in the south. In England they tell us if the north and the west differ. But we're thin king about a different type of speech, the kind that some of you use concerning your church. It is easy to discover whether you love your church by the speech or words used about it.

You remember that in the court during the early hours of the morning how one of the women said to Peter, "Thou art a Galilean, thy speech betrayeth thee."  
*Prayer says people are to be in a family with.*

5. We are all informed of the common task. Ephraim was informed. They knew, they just pleaded that they did not, but both leaders revealed that their hands were not tied. They could have helped if they would have. Take our Sunday School, our W. M. S., Our Training Union, our Building Fund, we are all informed, but are we all concerned?

6. Sin ties our hands. The trouble with Ephraim was a sin of jealousy, and therefore they could not render effective service. Sin ties our hands today. The story is told of an old man who came to his pastor requesting that he do something for his boy. He comes home every night with whiskey on his breath. You are his father, you talk to him. No good you see, my hands are tied. I gave him his first drink, I thought it clever to start him drinking, but I didn't mean for him to go on. One evening the three of them knelt, the father confessed his faults, and together with son found the Savior.

In prayer, sin ties our hands.

In service, sin may tie your hands. Hands released through Christ.

They were not sharers in the glory of the victory, therefore, they claimed their pride had been wounded.

Verse 2 Gideon makes his reply and tells them that their hands were not tied, if they really had patriotic zeal they would have volunteered their services.

Gideon said God had called him, and he did not take honor himself nor bestow honor and that Ephraim knew the enemy was in the country, and they knew he was collecting forces to fight, but cowards always seem strong when the danger is over.

He also pointed out that they received the greatest benefit from the victory, more so than his tribe.

Verse 3 - After Gideon had convinced them that their hands had not been tied, their anger was abated toward him.

2. Chapter 12:1-6 We have here in this passage Ephraim again picking a quarrel.

Verse 1 - Thou didest not call us when you went to fight against Ammon. This is a fresh development of the jealous temper of Ephraim. They wanted credit for having shared in the victory. This was a cruel and unjust, yea outrageous quarrel.

Verse 2 - Jephthah said your charge is false, said Ammon was pressing us and you did not come to rescue us, when I called you, you were not ready to lend a ready contribution. Your hands were not tied and you delayed until the crises had passed.

Verse 3 - I had to conquer with volunteers alone. You ought to be thankful that I won the victory, because I risked my own life. I was not in pursuit of glory, but to defend my country. The enterprise was hazardous.

Jephthah said, "Your hands are not tied. Now if you want to fight, let us fight." And he turned on Ephraim and gave him a sound beating.

The secret of his success is found in verse 6. The test was whether or not they could pronounce a certain word correctly. They asked every man crossing the stream to pronounce the word shibboleth, and if he said sibboleth and could not pronounce it right, they took him and slew him at the passage of Jordan. 42,000 Ephraimites fell that day.

## II. Spiritual Application.

1. Leaders are always attacked.

There are always some Ephraimites in the crowd who like to find fault with the leader. It is impossible to please all when you are doing any work of any magnitude and value, and so Gideon and Jephthah were attacked.

We find Gideon put oil on the troubled water as he fulfilled that verse in Corinth 13. "Love is kind, envying not and is not puffed up." He let them cool off by degrees. Leaders today always have their patience tried by the unkindness and follies even of those they serve.

Christ Jesus probably had more foes than he had friends when upon this earth. *Dr. Lee - I think in Sam. with trials but I hope to see a lot of you here - I think in Sam. with trials*

2. We find people with their hands tied today.

When there is a job to do, and places where service need to be rendered, we find those who say, "I cannot help you because my hands are tied."

*Sam. Aish - Sleep - Kind words*

3. We still have workers who want glory minus work.

There are plenty of people who will not enter a cause when it seems hard work is involved. They shrink from a task that is difficult, but they are willing to claim honor. Selfish people are more concerned about their share of the honor of a great enterprise than about the success of it.

*Some who like honor - Big job -*

IV - 3 - 6

"Take My Hands & All That Move  
at The impulse of Thy tone."

Ps. 24:3-4 "Who shall ascend into the hill  
of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?  
He that hath clean hands, & a pure heart, who hath  
not lifted up his soul into vanity, nor sworn  
deceitfully."

We need to see to it that our hands are  
instruments of righteousness in service to God  
& to humanity that we can, without  
self-righteousness boast, say: 18:20-24

"The soul rewarded" → ps. 18:20-24  
When Pompeii was unearthed, a man was  
found with his hand clutching a bag of gold.  
The supposition is that he had a chance to  
flee & turned back & perished with his money.  
"Where your treasure is, there will your heart  
be also." mat. 6:21

Are you going to let The Devil use your  
hands for his work or yield to God?

John May - an elaborate Book of  
sentiments very precious.

Bitter Widow - dropped in two notes  
the name is today known -

-IV-3-

What does God say -  
Mild your hands to God as instruments  
of righteousness.

What is in your hand? Is it not he  
a wine cup - is it not he the  
Gambler's tool - is it not he a cash  
register rousing up souls in a place of  
business - is it not he melancholical  
for which you will get returns.

What is that in this hand?

God ask Moses - Moses mentioned the serpent - in which God said take hold of the serpent - it became a rod - to Gods command - it became a rod - faith to Gods command - that even a weak faith God taught him that even a weak power might become an element of power.

Ask Joshua - A spear - hold it aloft & stretch it toward Ai - there was a great victory

Ask Shamgar - only an ox goad - 600 Philistines fell before it & sword was returned.

ask Hishon - only lamps, pictures, shrapels, strong weapons - Countess Michaites plus.

ask Samson - jawbone of an ass - a thousand men with the victory. Just a thousand men. ask young Saul - 5 teams, 2 fish - supplied wants of a multitude.

Wonders of The Hands

Choose your hands - James 4:5 That they they do evil with both hands unrightly - Mic. 7:3. Hands tell a story - smelt a man to climb up, or pull down. strength in the hand.

Hands are me for service: Pra 90:17.

"Establish thou the work of our hands upon us, O God, the work of our hands establish thou it."

Some Hands Reach out to get:

2 ways Diminishing The lord's Day → 1. Profit 2. Treasure.

Profit - leads the list - Business concerns think of money & profit - The profitable citizen does his buying during the week days -



