

A minister at a funeral service says to a congregation: "Before we send this man's soul to rest in heaven, can we have a good word about him?" There's complete silence. He asks again, imploringly: "Can we have a good word about this man before we send his soul to rest in heaven?" No one answers. Again he pleads, and finally a little old man gets up and says: "His brother was worse!"

20. Nov - Oct 19, 61 N.M. -  
Grove Park July 20, 90 P.M. Prayer Meeting ✓

THE CHRISTIAN MORATORIUM

Romans 14:19

Wednesday, October 15, 1969 was a Day of Moratorium on the war in Vietnam. "A Suspension of Activity" Delay ✓

~~Rallies, marches, speeches, reading the names of the war dead, demonstrations.~~

Perhaps nearly a million--youth.

Micah 4:3 - Day coming "Neither shall they learn war anymore."

Isaiah 2:4.

Psa. 46:9 "He maketh wars to cease."

V. 19 - Follow - To run swiftly in order to catch some person or thing - pursue.

"To seek after eagerly, earnestly endeavor to acquire".

Which makes for peace.

(Edify) - not distract - destroy - pull down opposite of edify.

To build a house - erect a building - to build up.

Things with reference to one another and to the church as a whole.

V. 20 - Overthrow not the work of God.

~~Ruin - tear down.~~

A stumbling block.

Pulling down the work of God, the work which God has done in a weaker brother.

A moratorium is declared on the feeble judgments of man.

On the account of food men were ruining the work of God.

V. 11-12 - Paul is pressing to lead them to understand.

All stand at that bar.

No one will then look with censoriousness or contempt.

Idea of judgment - give account to the bookkeeper.

V. 13 - Let us no longer have the habit of criticising one another.

Stumbling block - to strike against, stone in pathway - trap - soul stumbles.

Simple Gospel is relevant to contemporary man.

Great Theologian (Karl Barth) visiting America. Question - Seminary Student - "What was greatest thought that ever went through his mind?" Everyone was on edge to hear what he would say. Lifted his head slowly - "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so".

Group discussion of deep theological issues - one man said - "I don't know what you all have been talking about, but I do know one thing: I love Jesus".

Man's (basic need) is conversion.

Man's heart must accept the authority of the Scripture.

Bishop Pike - made the news - death. The Gospel he proclaimed was another Gospel. It was not the Gospel of the Bible, it was not the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Declare a moratorium on issues that destroy and unite on Primary task of the church.

Penetration of the world with the Gospel!

Orders the Great Commission - no surrender, no retreat, no discouragement by circumstances.

My job is to preach - not to get the whole city converted - they'll never be wholly converted.

But confront men with Christ.

We have a hope - Coca Cola has techniques to get this generation - get everyone in the world to taste (Coca Cola by 1971.)

Ought to get men to hear the Gospel - done through converted men.

We have mess on our hands - Europe - political crises - war Vietnam  
- no body knows the end of it pressures everywhere - dissension from within.

New York Times - World is stunned by nuclear capability of Red China  
- more advanced then dreamed. They say when they get the capability they  
are going to use it, because in a nuclear exchange, they say they could win  
- even if they lost 400 million people.

Next 5 to 10 years are going to bring vast change and there is no  
hope - no light - except Jesus Christ coming back.

Germany - Chancellor Adenaur had conference with Mr. Billy Graham some  
time ago. Offered cup of coffee and quickly said "Mr. Graham, do you believe  
in the resurrection of Jesus Christ?" He said I do -- Chancellor said - so  
do I, if Jesus Christ is not alive. There is no hope for our world".

Jer. 6:13 - For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them  
every one is given to covetousness and from the Prophet even unto the  
Priest everyone death falsely". Even Prophet.

6:14 - "They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people  
slightly saying - Peace, Peace, when there is no peace.

Number one word in the world today is Peace - but there is no peace -  
no peace in hearts of men.

There is never going to be peace in the world until we have peace with  
God.

"Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? Nay, they not at  
all ashamed, neither could they blush.

Morals are such that we no longer call sin, sin! We don't blush anymore.

Hardened - calloused - we call evil good and good evil.

"Thus saith the Lord" - I believe God said it, "Stand in the ways and see and ask for the old paths where is the good way and walk therein and ye shall find rest for your souls".

But they said "We will not walk therein!"

V. 19-20 - "I will bring evil upon this people".

### Moratorium on sin begins!

#### 1. Conversion

Other disciples never dreamed that in his heart Judas had never come into a real relationship with Jesus.

Matt. 7 - Jesus "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me ye that worked iniquity!

All this and never saved.

John Wesley - "What a dreadful thing it would be for me if I should be ignorant of the power of the truth which I am preparing to proclaim".

Richard Baxter - "God never saved any man for being a preacher".

If I were in doubt about my relationship with Christ. I would settle that first and make it sure.

Not be a beatnik to communicate.

Not do evil or identify with the world.

Never win souls to Christ until have a devotional life - power.

Dr. John S. Bonnell - Story D. L. Moody invited preach 5th Ave.  
Presby. Church, N. Y. center educated, intellectual, sophisticated, wealthy.  
Division - elders - inviting him.

Preach on Daniel - His collar wasn't right - tie on one side - couldn't  
pronounce the word Daniel - He said Danel - first remarks - ain't. In those  
days ain't wasn't in the dictionary.

People looked at each other, embarrassed, began to smile and laugh and  
wink at each other.

Kept on preaching simple sermon Daniel.

Half way - something happened - another voice began to speak. When  
finished, sitting edge of their seats listening to that other voice.

Mary Queen of Scots - dreaded prayers of John Knox more than she did  
an army of 10,000 men. Prayers not sermons!

John Vassar in Boston - great soul winner - knocked door of a person and asked  
the lady if she knew Christ as Saviour. She said its none of your business and  
slammed the door. He stood on door steps and wept and wept. She looked through  
the window at him weeping. Next Sunday presented herself to the church. She  
said Brethren it was those tears.

Where are the tears today?

Men need the Bible - not watered down - man pleasing message.

I Cor. 1:18ff - "I know very well how foolish it sounds to those who are  
lost when they hear that Jesus died to save them.

But we who are saved recognize this message as the very power of God.

For God says I will destroy all human plans of salvation no matter how  
wise they seem to be and ignore the best ideas of men, even the most brilliant  
of them".

Wise men - scholars - brilliant debaters.

Useless nonsense.

World never find God through human brilliance.

Save world - death on cross - world calls foolish, silly.

Message was relevant to pagan, intellectual, immoral Corinth, its relevant to our day.

When Paul stood and preached Jesus Christ and him crucified they laughed and it doesn't agree with our philosophy. It doesn't agree with our times. It doesn't agree with us. Everything is against it.

But in the cross there was a built-in power that transformed men, and it will today!

Some talk big about compassion and never show any.

Little value on a man.

Leper came beseeching Jesus - dirtiest, loneliest, forsaken person - Jesus touched him.

Grenfell went to Labrador to live with people.

Brainerd went to Indians to live with people.

Booth went to London to live with people.

You must first be evangelized.

Jim Bishop interviewed President Kennedy 3 weeks before assassinated. "Almost all Presidents leave office feeling that their work is unfinished.

I have a lot to do and so little time to do it".

Brethren we have a lot to do and little time to do it.

Moses said to 2 Tribes Reuben and God - "Shall your brethren go to war and shall ye sit here? If so, be sure yoursin will find you out".

Apathy.

My life is 2/3 gone--maybe much more than that. We ought to live each day as if it were our last.

Several things should take place as the Christian makes a moratorium on sin and finds peace.

1. We will love one another.

Paul lamented the division in the church. I want to tell you that between believers the N. T. says the whole weight is love - working together.

Sign, know you are saved - we know that we have passed from death unto life? How?

Because we love the brethren!

Sceptic reporter went to church--I came here a sceptic - but I've seen God here and in the love of the members.

Love causes us to be servants.

Jesus "whosoever of you will be chiefest shall be the servant of all".

Think of our Lord washing the feet of James, John - a servant.

Not get purple heart in Army by just saluting a General. You pay a great price. Man after God's heart - price.

2. We will forgive one another.

Eph. 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ sake hath forgiven you".

Why should we be willing to forgive?

Because God forgave us.

How much ought we forgive? Limitlessly.

For whose sake? For Christ's sake.

Easier to give out than give in.

Real test of your manhood - worry about pride - hard man get courage to show he is sorry. Remind you everytime see you, you did so and so.

3. We will not judge one another.

Rom. 14:13 - "let us no more pass judgment on one another, but decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

V. 4 - Jesus said "Judge not, that ye be not judged for with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged.

Bible - Scripture - love thinketh no evil.

Love covereth multitude of sins.

We judge people so quickly.

Take (misinformation)

Want (run) somebody else's business.

Don't have all the truth. Make statements to damn a person.

This is not of God.

Its grieving to Holy Spirit and keeps back Revival.

Time will come and you will need the Brethren.

Some women put out a scandal sheet every day.

Lambasting the Brethren.

4. We will edify one another.

Rom. 14:19

Edify - enlighten - instruct - improve.

Constantly seeking ways to build up in the faith.

No foolish, empty.

Held (accountable) for every word. Dread to think of judgment seat of Christ - I give account (every word)

Dr. H. C. Morrison - Pres. Asbury College - Ky.

Preached with the Bible in his hand - "You know where I was converted to Christ. I was plowing in the field, and a Methodist Circuit Rider was coming by on his horse, and he never saw me. But I knew him to be such a holy man that I could feel the power of his presence way out there in the field



and I dropped on my knees and gave my life to God".

(Oh God make me a holy man) - a holy man.

President Nixon - giving up golf - I've only about 15 years of peak life  
left and there are to many interesting conservations, to many good books  
to read and I don't want to waste an hour".

How much time are you wasting as a Christian.

Pray for one another.

Pray by name.

I need your prayers, more than at any time in my life.

(Make things right with God) this moment. Moratorium of sin - make  
this moment of dedication.