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October 12, 2020

Orcutt Christian Church's
37th Meditation

“A frightened world needs a fearless church.”

Apollo 11 was the first manned mission to land on the Moon. The first steps by humans on another planetary body were taken by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on July 20, 1969. Arnold Eric Sevareid (11/26/1912 – 7/9/1992) was an American author and CBS news journalist from 1939 to 1977. After the first moon landing, Mr. Sevareid remarked:

"There is after all another side, a dark side, to the human spirit also. Men have hardly begun to explore these regions, and it is going to be a very great pity if we advance upon the bright side of the moon with the dark side of ourselves; if the cargo in the first rockets to reach there consists of fear and suspicion, Surely we ought to have our credentials in order, our hands very clean, and a prayer of forgiveness on our lips as we prepare to open the ancient vault of the shining moon."

“What if we as a people would exert the same effort, the same energy, the same dedication and sacrifice, in setting our individual spiritual houses in order, that the NASA people have done in planning the moon flights? What if each of us would sincerely examine his heart and say with David, ‘Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting’ (Psalm 139:23-24)? What if we were to pray that prayer and mean it? What if we would exercise the care in our spiritual lives that NASA exercises in keeping a space rocket ‘without spot or blemish.’”

“Are we assuming by our slipshod faith, our sins, our fears, our failures, that a human soul is less valuable than a rocket made of steel, wire and batteries? Any thinking person should realize that the space hardware will

become rusted and corroded by the ravages of time, but our immortal souls will go on living forever."

"No matter how many planets we visit, no matter how advanced our scientific achievements, if we fail to deal with 'the dark side' of the human spirit, if we fail to conquer "inner space," then the conquest of outer space will have no meaning. The solving of such social problems as inflation, pollution, crime, and a thousand others, will carry little meaning unless we can solve the problems of the human spirit."

Dr. Wernher von Braun said:

"The materialists of the nineteenth century and the Marxist heirs of the twentieth tried to tell us that as science yields more knowledge about the creation, it makes us able to live without faith in a Creator. Yet so far, with every new answer we have discovered new questions. The better we understand the intricacies of the atomic structure, the nature of life and the master plan for the galaxies, the more reason we have found to marvel at the wonder of God's creation."

"But our need for God is not based on awe alone. Man needs faith just as he needs food, water or air. With all the science in the world we need faith in God."

Dr. Paul Butler says:

"To listen to some of our political leaders we might think that all of OUR problems can be solved without God's help, that all we need is more money. But the Bible teaches that God and man are partners. God created man both for fellowship and as a co-laborer. And man is helpless without God. When Jesus came to do his work in the world, he called 12 men to help him in his ministry. When he left he placed the burden of the work of his Kingdom upon their shoulders, and he said, ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. John 15:4-6"

"We Americans have felt that we can build a better world without God.

This is what the Communists are trying to do. And wherever they have extended their form of life they have made a mess of it, from Cuba to Czechoslovakia, Their people have a standard of living far below that of the rest of the Western world, and they are robbed of basic freedoms, such as the 'freedom of the press, freedom of speech and freedom of religion."

"We are in danger of copying the Communists by trying to achieve our goals without reference to God. We are trying to build a perfect society on the cracked foundation of human nature. For example, we are trying to wipe out crime without dealing with the corrupt heart of the criminal. The problem of crime is not just poverty, poor law enforcement and an antiquated judiciary system. It is all of this, but it is more. It is corrupt human nature that needs to be regenerated. This is why Jesus said, 'You must be born again' (John 3 :7)."

When we examine the problems that confront us in our world today, we find that every one of them resolves into a problem of "inner space," a problem of the dark side of the human spirit. We are infected by the disease of sin. The Bible says, 'There is none righteous, no, not one' (Romans 3:10). The Bible says, 'All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3 :23). The Bible gives only one answer, and that is the answer given by Jesus Christ long ago. He said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

We are never going to be free from the binding problems of alienation, loneliness, crime, alcoholism, lust and greed until we know the freedom to be found in a personal relationship with Christ. He said, "'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.' (John 14:6).

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We may not be able to assemble in our chapel, but we can still give our eye to eye contact and wave our hands. In anticipation of reopening the Chapel, we are keeping the chapel, fellowship hall, and bathrooms clean and welcoming. Lord willing, we shall be assembling in person soon.

Meanwhile, continue to meet for Drive-In worship where we praise God in Word and song. Listen in on stereo FM 94.7.

I know that some of the readers of this meditation are rightfully frightened of risking being exposed to COVID19. I also know that some of the readers think no one will miss them in Drive-In Worship. But God misses you. He

misses the joyful sound of your singing together while worshipping inside your car. He misses our prayers and rejoicing as we make connection with our Heavenly Father.

PLEASE remember to keep a few minutes free at noon time on Tuesday when we gather remotely to pray for each other, and other important issues.

Even if we are not assembling for weekly worship at 204 Patterson Road, our congregation still needs your prayers, your spiritual commitment, and your financial support. Orcutt Christian Church is a State of California 501(c)(3) incorporation [EIN # 952577218] . You can mail your personal check to

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