

C. F. S.

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THE MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

(Excerpts from the sermon preached by Mr. Roland K. Armes, retiring Moderator of the Bible Presbyterian Synod at the opening session of the 1944 meeting at Greenville, S. C.)

"I submit that no one knows what we believe until we translate that belief into action. This is just as true in the spiritual realm as it is in the physical, and just as true in the physical realm as in the spiritual. No sane man takes any action not predicated upon faith or belief in someone or something, and God calls the Christian in his walk before Him and the world to act in just such a sane manner—to believe Him and to act in obedience to that belief—and I want to emphasize here the word **act**. The Christian is not to sit in his study and theorize about God, or debate the subject in assemblies before men. The Christian faith is to live a life of faith, which means he is to perform concrete acts, basing these acts upon a real faith in the God of the Bible."

"God has given us in the 11th chapter of Hebrews some examples of men who did just this—held fast the profession of their faith by acting in obedience to Him, believing that He meant what He said and that He was able to make good what He said, and this record is directly linked to the key verse of our meditation."

"What a 'slaughter house religion' was Abel's that required the shedding of blood to please God!

How 'unChristian' was Noah to condemn those round about him by building the ark in obedience to God!

What a 'holier than thou' attitude of Abraham to think that Ur wasn't good enough for him and to pick up and leave at God's command.'

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised." (Hebrews 10:23)

What rebels were Moses' parents to put the word of God above the word of man and hide their son in disobedience to Pharaoh's command!

How 'narrow-minded' was Moses himself, when grown to manhood, to believe he could not honour God by remaining in Pharaoh's household!

Nay, here were men of **faith**. But please note that they were also men of **action**! They were men who **believed** God and **obeyed** Him."

Brethren, we are living in an age comparable to theirs—an age comparable to that of Daniel and the Hebrew children, to that of Paul and the Apostles, and to that of Martin Luther—an age when the world has descended into a night of almost unbelievable darkness, and pulled the professing church down with it, both together shutting out the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ; to both the preaching of the Cross is foolishness, to both the substitutionary atonement is a stumbling block, and to both the shed blood is an offense. In such an age and under such circumstances, brethren of the Bible Presbyterian Church, God is calling us to hold fast the profession of our faith by taking action in obedience to Him—action based upon faith in His Word.

"Every age presents a different set of circumstances under which God proves His believing children to know whether they love the Lord their God with all their heart and with all their

soul. But in every age the circumstances always lead to one course—**separation** from evil, unto Him whose Name is Holy and Who dwells in a High and Holy Place."

"This act of obedience was an act of separation—a separation as real as that of Abraham in his day—as real as that of Luther in his day—and there would be no Bible Presbyterian Church apart from the call to separation. Abraham acted—Luther acted—these men acted, and all by faith!"

"Brethren, not only are all these agencies in which we are involved works of separation but I am convinced that God is calling us to go on with Him in this walk of separation. Every act of separation, in time, necessitates another act of separation, as God permits new circumstances to arise and then through these circumstances calls us with a still, small voice to a closer walk with Him and a clearer, sharper testimony to the heedless, truth-denying, Bible-doubting world about us. Let us be keen to hear and swift to obey, that our hearts of those two disciples on the walk to Emmaus."

"Let us go on with Him in the spirit of our blessed Lord Himself, who said He came to do the Father's will.

Let us go on with Him fearing no man but fearing only to be found outside His perfect will for us.

We may know His will for us for He has promised to write His laws into our hearts and minds. (Hebrews 10:16)

He encourages us to do His will by calling us to remember the former days in which after we were illuminated, we endured. (Hebrews 10:3)

He exhorts us to cast not away our confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. (Hebrews 10:35)"

"FOR IF THE TRUMPET GIVE AN UNCERTAIN SOUND, WHO SHALL PREPARE HIMSELF TO THE BATTLE."—I Corinthians 14:8.