

"GOD AND THE DEPRESSION"

(Psalm 27:13 - "I had fainted unless I had believed.")

I. Introduction

Story of the two frogs.

People are pretty much like those two frogs:

For there is not any of us who at some time or other doesn't find himself floundering around in what seems to be a sea of trouble and from which escape seems impossible.

We have so many disagreeable things to contend with.

We have so many discouraging things to contend with.

Sometimes our arithmetic problems in school just don't seem to have an answer -- and most certainly for many of us the problems of life seem to have no answer.

It was Edwin Booth who finding himself in trouble one day wrote to his friend and said, "Life is a great big spelling book. and on every page we turn the words grow harder to understand the meaning of."

Life is like a jig-saw puzzle. We try our best to put it together, but so often some of the pieces seem to be missing - and we conclude the job just can't be done.

Yes, there are a great many unpleasant things in life - there are things we should like to have an can't; there are pains we have to suffer; there are discouragements to be endured; there are people going almost hungry, without proper clothes - there is unemployment - ALL these things,

Why should a good God permit such suffering?

Yes, we find ourselves falling into all sorts of troubles, and like those two frogs we can do one of two things.

who lived - very

II. The Problems of Life Must Be Faced.

The man who hired somebody to do his worrying.

Sankey - "Well, I guess I'll have to face the music".

The dope eater tries to avoid the difficulties of life - but he can't.

And so, when you and I find ourselves facing the disagreeable things in life we have to do just that - face them.

III. The Two Attitudes- that of the frog who sank.

What's the use? - Giving up, and just trusting to luck that things will come out all right.

There are a great many people who have taken that attitude toward life. *(Some enjoy it - old lady will go on.)*

It is an attitude of hopelessness and despair. True, sometimes there doesn't seem to be any hope ahead - but even at that we suffer a great deal ourselves by taking that attitude.

The editor now selling newspapers in Sioux City.

We can take that attitude if we want to, but nobody is going to suffer for it more than we.

IV. The RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE - the attitude of FAITH.

That is what religion should do above all else - when things go wrong - to buoy us up - to make us smile: to cry aloud, "it's great to be alive".

"Yet in the maddening maize of things
When tossed by storm and flood -
To one fixed trust my spirit clings
I know that God is good."

Storm on the sea - Jesus calmed it.

Partners with God

(4- God and the Depression)

But for sacrifice and suffering the United States would not be here today.

But for sacrifice we would have slavery.

But for a man who sacrificed upon a cross - we today would not be worshipping in a Christian church.

THE RELIGIOUS MAN looks at the hardships of depressions and says, "No good thing has ever come without such suffering.

2. The religious man realizes that sometimes setbacks are the very things which bring us to our senses and make us see things in their right perspective. Sometimes we see that the things we've thought were the most important, were not important at all.

God closed my eyes that I might see" - T. A. Cunningham

And again, sometimes it is these hardships that bring out our best.

Ole Bull playing in Munich - A string broken - yet he went on/

There is no greater art in life than to bring out the music of life when we have been deprived.

3. Brings us closer to God.

Troubles make us see that after all we are much too small to see and understand the workings of God. *as far as we can see is for the best - so God is always working*

Someone has said, "His plan so large - our view how small".

I wonder if we don't look sometimes too much at the smaller things in life - and complain.

" Because it rains when we wish it wouldn't

Because men do what they often shouldn't

Because crops fail and plans go wrong-

Some of grumble all day long.

But somehow in spite of the care and doubt,

It seems at the last that things work out".

(5- God and the Depression)

My friends, our troubles and disappointments
can do one of two things for us - ~~they~~ they can drive
God out of our lives - or

they can bring us closer to him than ever before -
they can make us realize that we are working
with God and making sacrifices in order that this
may be a bigger and better world -

"Lord let me do my little part
With courage and a willing heart
Open my eyes that I may see
However dark the day may be
However rough the road I fare
The purpose of the cross I bear."