

IS PROTESTANTISM (CHRISTIANITY) IN AMERICA DOOMED?

INTRODUCTION:

acth 5:33-42; matt 15:10-14

1. Mr. Russell Kirk, FORTUNE MAGAZINE, February 1961
2. Title of article: CAN PROTESTANTISM HOLD ITS OWN IN AMERICA?
2. Mr. Kirk says that it cannot and gives the following reason:
 1. Because of our conception of Christianity today.
 1. We view it as amounting to little more than a vague spirit of friendliness. BE FRIENDLY.
 2. Our conception of Christianity today is based upon some SMALL measure of financial support, and occasional attendance provided:
 1. The church demand no real sacrifice. Rom.12:1
 2. The church preaches no exacting doctrine.
 - (1) Everything in general and nothing in particular idea.
 3. Protestantism (Christianity) is going to fail because:
 1. Conditions in modern America do not encourage the search for God. The good things of life appear to come automatically. For all things man seems to look:
 - (1) To the big factories and department stores
 - (2) To the state-federal government.
 - (3) To the corporation & giant union for protection. NOT TO GOD. *James 1:17*
 4. Protestantism is going to fail because:
 1. Man seems to tolerate God rather than to fear him. "Yes I believe in God but I am not nuts about him," answered on co-ed.

A VAST DIFFERENCE IN PROTESTANTISM AND REAL CHRISTIANITY

1. Christianity has been sorely tried in every age and has withstood every test. IT WAS TESTED:
 1. By the death of John the Baptist. *Matt 14:1-11; Mark 6:14-29*
 2. By the death of Jesus: the Founder of Christianity
 3. By the death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr
2. It is tested today by internal strife and irregularities:
 1. Judas the traitor; 2. Peter denied Jesus.
 2. Ananias and Sapphira lied about their ability to give.

Preached at Dearborn, Michigan Sunday Morning 9-24-61

Preached at Ozona, Texas Sunday morning, October 8, 1961

Preached at Llano, Texas Monday night, Oct. 30, 1961

3. CHRISTIANITY IS TESTED AND TRIED IN OUR DAY:

1. By indifference on the part of many.

4. The church has had problems in every age.

1. Up to this time at least, the problem of the church has been "HOW CAN IT SAVE THE WORLD?"

2. Today, a new problem may be confronting the church and expressed in this question: "How can the church save itself from the world?"

(1 Peter 1:22-25)