

WINNING
THE BATTLE
for the
MINDS OF MEN

DENNIS PEACOCKE

Copyright © 1987, 2000, 2014, 2023 by Dennis Peacocke

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, except for brief quotations in critical review or articles without the prior, written permission of the publisher.

Published by GoStrategic
(Formerly Strategic Christian Services)
1221 Farmers Lane, Suite E
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
www.gostrategic.org | info@gostrategic.org

Printed in the United States of America

DEDICATION

To my family who sacrificially gave me up once again for the Kingdom; to Bob and Rush and Gary who helped reengage my earlier training; to my uncle Jim who first caused me to bow my knee to Jesus; and perhaps most specifically to my initial tutor—thanks, Mom.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To so many who helped me birth and develop this project, I am deeply grateful. For Sandy, Rod, Loran, and for Gary Metz and his final redirection—I am blessed by your jobs well done. May this foundation serve us well in the tasks to which we are called.

CONTENTS

Foreword.....	ix
Preface: Dropped into the Battle Zone	xi
1 Occupying Till He Comes	1
2 The Care and Discipling of God's Nations	11
3 Reclaiming the Power of the Early Church	27
4 The False Separation of Church and State	41
5 Somebody Is Legislating Morality	55
6 Politics Doesn't Have to Be a Dirty Business	73
7 Attacking the Lies That Are Stealing Our Children's Future..	83
8 Storming the Gates of Our Cities	97
9 Power in the Blood?.....	111
10 Becoming Fishers of Men	123
11 Getting Ready to Rule in a World Falling Apart.....	135
12 Calling for Christian Heroes	149
Bibliography	159
About GoStrategic	163
Other Books by Dennis	164

FOREWORD

WRITTEN IN 1985, IT IS NOW 2023, AND WE FIND OURSELVES in a most critical period in US and global history. *Winning the Battle for the Minds of Men* was designed as an instructive commentary on the basics of cultural analysis from a Christian perspective. In many ways, it stands today as a slowly expanding remedy, gradually affecting significant portions of the Christian activist culture, albeit in language and analogies more suited to aging baby boomers and emerging postmodernists.

Prophetically, the level of deep divisions within the US, and in many other nations, must and will get deeper before it begins to recede. Those committed to the destruction of Western civilization will not change. Does this mean I am hopeless in terms of believing what I say in this book? No, not at all. Here is what I am saying: The anti-Christ poisoning of our universities, liberal corporations, media giants, and entertainment moguls must produce a convincing level of social destruction so as to make dynamic the reality of the evidence of their social and spiritual diseases. Their advocacies are remedies of death, failure, and refuse. Harsh words indeed, but the social gangrene of their ideas must drop and rot before the current body politic can begin to truly heal.

All of us who have lived through the latest social upheavals with the COVID pandemic, the social collapse of once-honored social institutions, and the general degradation of numerous major cities will attest to the level of seriousness with which I cry out in this book. Indeed, the level of spiritual warfare which surrounds us makes God's warnings, remedies, and biblical truths all the more powerful by their contrast to our opponents' songs and advocacies of death. Yet, once again, the essential Christian worldview and the supporting directives to redeem the culture are needed now

more than ever. Thus, this book on the basics of social impact may now be timelier than ever.

I'm optimistic because I've read the end of the Bible—Christ and His people win! Take heart; if we will act, speak, and fearlessly stand our ground, God will do the same. At this point, *Winning the Battle* is on a cosmic train track headed right where it is destined to go. When you finish reading it, I urge you to do something—and stick with it! Ultimately, I wrote this book to provoke us all to more effective action for our children, the nations, and our God. Dig in, ponder, and find ways to implement the concepts—they are anything but outmoded.

Dennis Peacocke
Fall 2023

PREFACE

Dropped into the Battle Zone

YOU ARE INVOLVED IN A BATTLE TO THE DEATH BETWEEN TWO competing world systems over the control of this planet. At birth, you were dropped in the midst of the battle zone. Although most Christians are unaware of the immediacy of this battle, every single one of us is involved because neither one of the two warring "superpowers" will allow any of us to remain neutral. This war is being fought both with ideas and raw power. In our lifetime (or perhaps stretched into our children's lifetimes), it will erupt into ultimate confrontation. This is the ultimate battle between God and Satan, between the Kingdom of God and the world system, between Jesus Christ and the devil. The battle lines have been drawn, the challenge has been raised, and there is no backing out. Though, by appearance, things may appear to be "normal," the armies nevertheless are amassing as "the kings of the earth (the world system) take their stand against the Lord and against His anointed (the Church)."¹ We are moving into the time of the earth's fire.

Freedom's only hope is in God—God working out His plan of the ages through His people, the Church. Christians and Christians alone, of all the people in the earth, can possess the moral fervency and ideological consistency necessary to mobilize the armies of righteousness to a successful confrontation. They alone possess the moral fuel and the truth that frees.² Christians, under the guidance and in the power of the Holy Spirit, are the only visible hope for a world trapped in increasing fear, despair, and bondage.

¹ Psalm 2:2.

² John 8:32, 36.

WINNING THE BATTLE

Calling Christian Heroes

This book is a call for Christian heroes—for Christians who will stand up for the faith and pursue righteousness both in their own lives and in society, no matter what the cost.

This book will (1) show clearly the necessity of "occupying (in victory) until Christ comes,"³ (2) expose ways the enemies of God's moral order are trying to destroy not only our communities but our children's futures, (3) show how you can find your place of service (ministry) in the battle,⁵ and (4) teach you biblical principles in understanding and shaping political and economic events.⁵ It will also jar you.

Christians cannot afford to look at the world through splintered lenses, mixing and matching Christian principles with the principles of the opposition. Christians must look, live, and act with an integrated *Christian worldview* to successfully participate in the ultimate victory of the Lord in His work. It is this Christian worldview alone that will allow the Church to cut through the smoke of deception shrouding the battlefield for the minds of men. True Christianity recognizes that God's Word speaks to all that man is and does—and it deals with ultimate issues. True Christianity is looking for a world ordered in such a way that His Kingdom comes and His will is done *on earth* as it is in heaven.⁶

Birth Pangs, Death, and Strong Men and Women

For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom . . . but all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. —Matthew 24:7-8

I'm not preoccupied with "doom and gloom," but I am obsessed with the promised redemption of a fallen world. Jesus spoke of the tumultuous last days as "the beginning of birth pangs." There is pain and suffering to come, but the result is life not death, birth and not annihilation. We Christians can, should, and must play out our courageous part in this labor and birth process as the Lord prepares for His return. I am convinced from careful study of the Scriptures that we don't have to—in fact should never—give up

³Luke 19:13.

⁴Ephesians 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10.

⁵Ephesians 3:10.

⁶Matthew 6:10.

PREFACE

and let Satan have any uncontested power over the earth. Satan is a bully who rules by fear and deception. Christian liberators must declare the truth: Satan is a defeated enemy, defeated at the cross. Christians have a duty before our Lord and Master to bring both Christ's victory and His message of redemption to liberate the nations. Our message of Christ's Kingdom is designed to set men free personally, in their families, communities, nations, and even in the world.

True freedom is measured by the degree to which a culture honors human dignity, recognizing men and women as created in the image of God.⁷ Ultimately, to reject God also rejects the value of man. The more truly Christian a culture is, the more it is moral, free, productive, and civilized. Conversely, the less Christian it is, the more poverty, exploitation, hopelessness, and death exist. In our own case, as the Western world moved into the twentieth century, it cast off the restraints of historical Christian values and substituted Freudian psychology, scientific socialism, and evolutionary relativism, bringing us a century of death. Evolution teaches us that man, as "evolving muck" has no special claim to life, and that all relationships are based on the ethics of the power of the survival of the fittest. An evolving world is based on and legitimizes incredible cruelty. The widespread acceptance of evolution has given us the most barbaric period in history.

The Century of Death

Over 150 million human beings were killed in the last century (not counting war casualties) at the hands of torturers, through planned famine, by executioners, or by abortionists.⁸

Where was the Church in all of this? Mostly deaf, dumb, and blind, doing nothing more than wringing its hands and waiting for Jesus to come.

Millions have died in the Soviet Union, Cambodia, Southeast Asia, Red China, Africa, Afghanistan, and other countries. Millions have also died in their mothers' wombs. *The twentieth century was the bloodiest century in history.*⁹ These millions upon millions of corpses are mostly the victims of anti-Christian governments and/

⁷ Genesis 1:26.

⁸ Wall Street Journal, July 7, 1986. *War Isn't This Century's Biggest Killer.*

⁹ Ibid.

WINNING THE BATTLE

or ideologies which reject God's moral absolutes. When values become relative, so does the value of human life.

This has been a unique century of ideological warfare on a mass scale. While the religiously misguided of the Inquisition killed their thousands, the *secular humanists*, *Marxists*, and *abortionists* have killed and continue to kill multiplied millions. These myriad victims die because Christians fail to invalidate the death sentences issued by the world system upon them. Neither political dissent nor being a fetus that is "inconveniencing" its mother's lifestyle ought to be a crime worthy of death.

Slow death is epidemic also. Sexually related plagues are incubating a medical holocaust. Drug use is out of control; public "education" has become a misnomer; world debt is swelling to a crushing tide; liberal welfare policies are systematically destroying the black family unit; and criminals are wasting the peace loving at home while Marxists destroy the freedom loving abroad.

We Are Even Losing Ground Evangelistically!

Consider the current dimensions of our evangelistic losses. In the last hundred years, the Muslim religion has increased in size 600 percent, Hinduism by 325 percent, Buddhism by 258 percent, and Christianity by 269 percent. Not only have we lost two thirds of the globe politically since 1917 to the Marxists, but we are currently losing the religious world as well.¹⁰

The Question: How Did This Disaster Occur?

Don't look elsewhere for the causes of this moral cancer— look to the Church. The nations are in misery, and Christian civilization is *perishing* more because of *false doctrine in the Church* than because of universal sin or Satan's power. *The Church* is where God chooses to act and liberate as He "takes His stand."¹¹

When the Church *withdraws* from society, the institutions within it will decay and increasingly practice inhuman indignities. The nations are perishing because the Church has withdrawn from shaping their laws and influencing their cultures. Christian withdrawal brings decay, collapse, and death. But there is no need

¹⁰ *World Religion Database*, January 2012.

¹¹ Psalm 82:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19.

PREFACE

for this Christian flight from battle: Jesus promised us that "greater is He that is in you than he who is in the world."¹²

Theological deception has led us into withdrawal from society and into a nearly exclusive concern with *internal church life* (privatization). Because nature abhors a vacuum, the secular state has rushed in to fill the vacuum of valueless society. It has set its own godless standards for man—standards of relativistic values and increasing degradation. For too long, the Church stood back from the world and decried its ever-increasing slide into the quagmire of decay. But we have not realized that *our withdrawal* from an active role in caring for and disciplining our nations is the major cause for this accelerating self-destruction. Our defective theology has shot the nations in the foot.

The Answer

It is time to reverse this disintegration of civilization. It is time to reassert our God-commanded role to be "salt and light and a city set on a hill."¹³

For us to be liberators of the nations and truly disciple them, the Church must reinvolve itself in impacting the whole world socially, politically, and culturally for Christ. We must get involved like Jesus did. Involvement recognizes that the Church must act and be liberated itself as it turns to the job of disciplining the nations.¹⁴

We must allow God to free the Church so we can be a free-flowing conduit of true freedom from God to all men. The journey to freedom begins with the recognition of your own bondage and your commitment to breaking out of it. Contemporary Christians have allowed themselves to be ghettoized and shoved into a corner where we entertain ourselves and primarily demonstrate our concern for a heavenly future. We have fled from the battlefield on this earth instead of courageously acting to bring God's power to bear in the midst of it.¹⁵

Strong Men for Strong Times

It's time to break out of the Christian ghetto. It's time for the Church to reclaim the agenda for change from the world system. It's time

¹² 1 John 4:4.

¹³ Matthew 5:13-16.

¹⁴ Matthew 28:18-20.

¹⁵ Psalm 110:2.

WINNING THE BATTLE

to assert the truth of God over the lies of His enemy. The battle promises to be fierce because most people, including Christians, have been brainwashed by the world system. We Christians tend to have souls that are saved but worldly minds. Remember, however, that the King of Glory rides at the head of our army. And He is *already* declared to be "the King of Kings and Lord of Lords."¹⁶

Dare to meet the challenge. God is recruiting Christian men and women just like you who can retrain their minds and qualify to carry His righteousness and justice to the imprisoned. May this book teach you how to become vitally relevant as you become the "salt of the earth." May your tombstone read:

"IT MADE A DIFFERENCE THAT THIS SOUL LIVED."

¹⁶ Revelation 19:16.

He said therefore, "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, 'Occupy till I come.'"

—Luke 19:12-13

CHAPTER 1

Occupying Till He Comes

SO, YOU WANT TO LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE THAT REALLY CHANGES people and things? Great. The cry for a relevant church and personal lives that count can only lead us toward the hard work of clear thinking. Clear thinking begins by asking the right questions. Let us begin with some basic questions and a little hard work before we get to the more "exciting" issues of our journey toward a vibrant church and world-changing Christians.

How did the world get into the mess it's in today? What does our culture's destruction have to do with the Church? What part in this battle for the nations do I play as an individual Christian? How can I find my own ministry? These are the questions I usually hear first when I recruit Christians to join Christ's army to liberate their nations. The answers to these questions form the foundation of this book. Let's start with the "basics" of our situation.

Spiritual Law Upholds All Things

There are no human activities in which God is uninterested or uninvolved. Jesus is Lord of all, cares about, and is involved with all that exists. But He is *not* the source of the world's problems. Problems have their origin in spiritual disobedience. They are ultimately the result of flaunting and/or improperly applying the laws of God's universe.

God created an ordered universe of cause and effect. All mankind functions within its ordered borders—even if some segments of humanity hate God and His laws. Spiritual laws and natural laws

WINNING THE BATTLE

are both all-inclusive and inexorable. Gravity was created by God and works whether you believe in it or not. God's laws, whether spiritual or natural, work in the real, here-and-now world.

The Bible is filled with God's laws for man's use in integrating every part of his life to successful spiritual and physical living. The Bible is the "Manufacturer's handbook." God created the earth, man, and all the laws that govern His creation. Nothing can fall outside of God's spiritual laws. Science, economics, politics, and all other aspects of human life work properly, only to the degree that they are in obedience to God's laws. Today, society is falling apart because it is increasingly a spiritual criminal as it systematically breaks God's laws.

The World in Rebellion

The world system is in rebellion against God, and the Church has largely refused to challenge this rebellion, or even censor it. We have allowed Satan to convince us that the world's problems aren't "spiritual," so they are none of the Church's business. Instead of studying God's Word and becoming experts in the knowledge and application of spiritual law in every facet of human life, we have studied only enough to change man's soul but not his world. We have turned God into a "moralist" instead of seeing Him as a creative ruler. We have let the wicked rob God's store, as it were, being content to simply get a few of the store's customers out safely. We have not resisted evil nor attempted to uphold the laws of God before all men. In short, we have failed to disciple the nations because we have not taught them to obey "whatsoever things I have commanded" in every *realm* of human life.¹

The Church Is God's Custodian

When the earth's caretaker, God's Church, goes to sleep on the job, everybody suffers. Every aspect of human society is affected by our benign neglect. We have the stewardship over God's Word, and God's Word is where healing and health for the nations is found. By and large, Christians have only applied God's Word to the Church. We have let the unsaved live by their "own laws," since we thought the laws of the Book didn't apply outside the Church. The result is

¹Matthew 28:20.

OCCUPYING TILL HE COMES

an uncared-for world of people, choking in the confusion of their own disobedience. When the Church falls into theological error, the world suffers. Jesus left the Church as His representatives, occupying until He returns.² If the Church abandons its care and responsibility for the nations, the world becomes like a rental property abandoned by the rental agent, subject to vandalism and destruction. This is exactly our present situation. Because of the false doctrine of withdrawal, the Church has abandoned the nations. The lawn and flower beds are overgrown, and vandals have all but destroyed the house. The vandals are those anti-God leaders who have infected the nations with political and social programs totally at odds with the laws of God's universe.

Untying the Custodian

God's Word has the answers for all of man's problems. Jesus didn't just say that those in the Church should live by every word from God, but that *man*, meaning every single human being, can only live successfully by God's Word.³ God's Word is the door to blessing and liberty. The key to that door into God's blessing has been given to the Church to lead the nations into true freedom.⁴ Our problem is that we haven't used those keys to solve the problems that are killing the world.

Matthew 12:29 warns that plunder is only possible when the "strong man" has been bound: "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house." Jesus tells us how to steal another's property: bind the strong man. Christ's property is the world, the nations.⁵ We, the members of His body, the Church, are the "strong man" who is to guard and protect Christ's nations. To steal the nations from God, the Church must first be bound. False doctrines of abandonment and deception chained us and made us powerless to stop the decay of the nations. Our enemies didn't have to kill Christianity, they only had to get us to abandon our responsibility for others and give us an obsession with "pie-in-the-sky" escapism. With us preoccupied with other things, God's enemies can do with the nations what they will.

² Luke 19:12-15; Matthew 25:14-23.

³ Matthew 4:4.

⁴ Matthew 16:18-19.

⁵ Psalm 2:8; 24:1; 82:8; etc.

WINNING THE BATTLE

The Enemy's Chains

The enemy's lies are chameleon-like in their varieties of expression, but the core of each is the same. These false teachings tell us:

Give us the real world, and you Christians can do what you want with the "spiritual" future! Leave the nations alone. They belong to Satan. Take heaven and be content. Besides, Jesus said His Kingdom was "not of this world." He was offered the nations when Satan tempted Him in the wilderness, but He refused. Jesus isn't interested in working through the Church to influence the world; He simply plans to judge it at His Second Coming.

Everywhere in Scripture, the world is described as wicked, evil, and to be shunned at all costs. We are to flee from it. The earth belongs to Satan. Involvement in the affairs of this world, especially politics, will corrupt you and distract you from saving souls for the heavenly Kingdom. When Christians forsake evangelism and the saving of souls for involvement with the social gospel, they totally miss God.

Do arguments like this sound familiar to you? Can you think of other Scriptures that the "abandonists" can take out of context to prove to you that you should keep your hands off society and the nations? Does it shock you that the most powerful spiritual attacks come from the misuse of Scripture? It shouldn't. Reread the temptation of Christ in Matthew 4:1-11. Jesus and Satan banged heads in the wilderness with the correct use of Scripture at the core of their battle. Satan continuously uses Scripture against the Christian to keep him convinced that "real-world" problems are not the Church's business.

Freedom in God's Word

Since the earth is to burn,⁶ does that mean Christians should leave the care of it and its nations to the enemy? No. Never! Christians are told to disciple and care for the nations by teaching them to obey God's laws and prosper.⁷ We should have the same care and concern for our transitory earth as we do for our corruptible bodies. Our bodies will decompose when we die, but we haven't stopped eating, sleeping, bathing, clothing, and caring for ourselves, have we? Why then should we abandon the care of our Father's earth?

⁶2 Peter 3:10.

⁷Matthew 28:19.

OCCUPYING TILL HE COMES

In Genesis, man was told what God expected him to do with his time on earth. "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule (Genesis 1:28)." This command has never changed. Jesus came to set His people free from the power of sin so that they could obey that ancient law of God.⁸

God's goal for man is to bring us into obedience through the atonement of Jesus Christ so that God and man can be reconciled and work together. *God wants us to rule under Him over the world.* God has called a people for Himself to co-rule as His companion.⁹ God never saved His people for an eternity of sitting on clouds, wearing golden slippers, and playing harps. He saved us for leadership in His Kingdom, both here on earth and in the age to come.¹⁰ For Christians, the future is now. We are *already* in His Kingdom training program.¹¹ Each of us who has been cleansed by His blood has entered the royal apprenticeship, and we are to "reign in this life."¹²

Disobedience Leads to Dispossession

The Bible starts with the identification of God as the absolute Creator.¹³ He created the earth, and He is its original and only owner.¹⁴ God still owns absolutely everything on earth, including the nations.¹⁵

Adam and Eve were made in God's image.¹⁶ Adam was God's firstborn earthly son, the lawful heir to the whole world. God made it for man, and then He placed man over it.¹⁷ All of it. It was man's lawful possession, so long as man remained faithful to God.

But Adam walked away from his communion with God by succumbing to Satan's false promise that he would not die by disobeying God—that, in fact, he would be on the same level as God because he would "know good and evil" (Genesis 3:5). Adam chose to believe Satan's lie over God's command.

⁸ Romans 8:2-4.

⁹ Ephesians 1:17-18.

¹⁰ Romans 8:17; Hebrews 2:5.

¹¹ Colossians 1:13.

¹² Romans 5:17.

¹³ Genesis 1:1.

¹⁴ Psalm 24:1.

¹⁵ Psalm 2:8, 82:8; Genesis 14:19; Deuteronomy 10:14; Exodus 19:5; etc.

¹⁶ Genesis 1:26.

¹⁷ Genesis 1:28.

WINNING THE BATTLE

People are still imitating Adam's sin today. Secular humanism shoves Christianity out of the public arena as it declares, "We're all like God. We can each decide our own morality, our own ethics and laws, our own destinies. Everything we need is within ourselves. We don't need God, and we certainly don't need you uptight Christians."

God's response to Adam was immediate and clear: He drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, disinheriting them from His riches.¹⁸ From that day on, they were legally disinherited children. So is every human being at birth. We are still created in God's image, but that image has been marred, and we are born as disinherited children.

Through Adam, we have chosen to reject God's authority and so lose His inheritance and His authority. It is through fallen human beings that Satan seeks to rule the world. He hasn't enough power by himself. Mankind is still mankind, made in God's image. Dominion is still God's assignment to man, not to Satan. God's assignment to man to exercise dominion across the face of the earth is still in force. There is no reason for God's redeemed people to allow Satan any authority at all. Satan and his demons scare men, tempt men, and confuse men, but they cannot rule God's earth beyond men's consent. Satan is lord, not over God's earth, but over the corrupted worldly system his human followers have constructed. Christians' unbelief gives Satan his power over the nations.

Obedience Leads to Possession

God wants Christians today to bring order to the earth on His behalf. Jesus' words are very clear:

... All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth; go therefore and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I commanded you... —Matthew 28:18-20

As "the last Adam," Jesus took back the title to the earth after His glorious resurrection. The title deed to the nations is a blood-stained document which Christ took in His possession at the cross. He "spoiled principalities and powers" and made an open spectacle of them (Colossians 2:10, 15). Satan is the god of the corrupt world system, but he certainly doesn't own the earth or the earth's proclaimed trustee, the Church.

¹⁸ Genesis 3:23-24.

OCCUPYING TILL HE COMES

Jesus has all power on the earth and all power over nations now! And it is through the Church that He will exercise that power. Satan, unredeemed persons, and all ungodly forces of hell want you to stay ignorant of this all-important truth. The Church is "political," whether you like it or not, because it is God's source for governmental wisdom and law for the nations of His earth. The Church is the "pillar and ground of truth",¹⁹ and it alone has the keys which will unlock the nations. Jesus gave us the keys. We are compelled to use them!

The Church Is Not...

If we are to occupy until He comes and care for His goods, then we must understand how God sees the Church and how He expects it to *represent His interests* on the earth. We must see the Church as God sees it, as the representative of Himself and guardian of the Master's property.

The Church is not a building. Most Christians recognize the snare of identifying the people of God with brick and wood, but we can still play into the hands of our enemies if we identify ourselves too strongly with a particular location—where we hold our public assemblies. We "ghettoize" ourselves if we do, shutting ourselves out of the surrounding cares of our society. If we can be tricked into identifying the people of God and their purposes with simply going into a building, instead of seeing God's people as spiritual agents working on God's behalf on the earth, then we buy into the mentality of "ghetto Christianity."

The Church is not a meeting. Many people have stopped seeing the Church as a building only to be snared into believing that the purpose of the Church is to have one meeting after another. It is very easy to fall into this trap, since the fellowship of the saints is vital to spiritual health, and our assemblies are where we worship and learn. As essential as meetings are, the Church is not a meeting.

The Church: God's Vessel to Serve the Nations

The Church is not a building of stone, but we are a temple of "living stones" (1 Peter 2:9). We are not a series of meetings; we are a place where God meets. We are the place where "God takes His stand" (Psalm 82:1).

¹⁹ 1 Timothy 3:15.

WINNING THE BATTLE

This means that God has no other group of people on the earth through whom He operates freely. God wants to deal with injustice through the Church. God wants to aid the poor through the Church. God wants to help the fatherless through the Church. God has decided that any degree of divine control on the earth before Christ's return will come through the Church. That is where He "takes His stand."

The Church is to be a beacon of light to the nations as it challenges them to come out of the darkness. The light of the Church should be so bright and so compelling that the nations will trade in their chains and rags for the freedom and robes of righteousness from Christ. The light of the Church should shine into every nook and cranny of human captivity and imprisonment. Evangelism should be a natural outgrowth of every Christian's natural interaction with people around him. It should never be relegated to a "special program" status which hides it from instant access by the needy.

The Church must break free from false doctrines and false ideas about itself. It must recognize that God's master plan is for responsible leadership of our society, not for the satanic lie of the isolated Christian ghetto. Most church members are set on *leaving* the planet and its problems as quickly as they can get to heaven. But God has set His heart *toward* the people of the earth and the furtherance of His Kingdom here on this planet as the *Church's first duty*. God wants to rule through us. While we have been driving to free ourselves of the earth and its problems, God has been pressing toward the earth and the care of its people. Let's go God's way—toward the needs of the people and the care of His planet! Let's occupy our post and not desert it.