

No. 3. of Base. Sermons
June 16 - 1929

SERMON

BY

Will Hamlin

Text

Subject, Kingdom of God

Doxology.

Invocation, Casablanca

498 Psalter - Laker.

212 Hymn

Scripture - Palmer.

Eph. 1:15-23

Choir

Prayer, Clarence

360 Hymn

Announcements { exam of cand. after service
con. ~~at~~ at 4:30 P.M.

Sermon.

440 Hymn

Benediction R. G. G. G.

Cotulla June 8-1941

Encinal " " "

DIRECTIONS.

To allow this cover and the sheets to lie open
and flat, tie loosely.

3rd Base. Ser. June 16-1929.

- The Kingdom of God -

Jesus said:

I must preach the good tidings
of the Kingdom of God. Luke 4:43.

Seek ye first His Kingdom. Mat. 6:33.

Go thou and publish abroad

the Kingdom of God. Lu. 9:60.

That they may be one, even as
we are one, I in them and

thou in me, that they be perfected
into one. Jno 17:21.

This is my commandment
that ye love one another even
as I have loved you. John 15:12.

They shall become one flock,
one shepherd. Jno 10:16.

For one is your father and
one is your master, even the Christ.
Matt 23:9-10.

These ^{words} ~~texts~~ spoken by
Jesus clearly set ^{forth} his wishes
and hopes for the Kingdom of
God, and the spirit that
should actuate all in
their work for the Kingd. of God.

The Kgd. of God is not
an earthly kingdom. Earthly
kingdoms are extended by con-
quest. Armies, drilled
to fight and to kill, are
fed up on lies about
the horrible deeds and
devastating purposes of
their enemies. Earthly rulers
make their ^{armies} believe they are
doing God's will, that they

are fighting for righteous principles. There is no other way to incite a people to war today. The men die on both sides believing that they are fighting for righteous principles. War to end war, to save democracy was the battle cry of the world war on one side for that appealed to the most people. Such are the methods of earthly rulers.

Too often the churches of Christ employ the same or similar methods to

extend their boundaries.

They magnify their differences
and minimize their likeness
in the essentials of Christianity.
Suspicious, real doubts lead-
ing finally to hate, has
driven the supposed servants
of Christ to commit the
most odiously sinful
crimes of history, and
they did it under the
banner of the Church. It
is still all too frequent
that we see and hear
certain Christians holding
to this ancient custom
of warfare in the exten-
sion of God's Kingdom.

(3)

The Kingd. of God is not so extended. Churches may and possibly are sometimes built-up like political machines and grow in number and power but not in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

The Kingd. of God is developed in the heart of man. The Kingd. of God is the reign of God in the hearts of men. It is in the world but not of the world. — not earthly

It is intimately associated with the world, and the real motive power of all man's acts, and

governs his thoughts.
The Rgdm. of God makes its
central seat of Government,
not in legislative Halls
of a Capitol building but
in the private, confi-
dential, secret halls
of man's heart. It is
a spiritual. Love of God
and of the brethren is the
inspiring emotion that
moves the child of God
to action. Where there is
love in the heart for God
and for man, there is the
Rgdm. of God. Love suffereth
long and is kind; love
envieth not, is not puffed
up; doth not behave

itself unseemly, seeketh⁴
not its own, is not pro-
voked, taketh not account
of evil, rejoiceth not in
unrighteousness but
rejoiceth with the truth.

And truth is the
food of the soul. Truth
blazes the way through
the darkness of error.
Truth triumphs in the
end and sets you
free. The kgdm. of God
is advanced by the fires
of love kept burning
in the heart of man
with the cooperation
of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit uses

means with which to advance
the Kingdom of God. Man is that
means. Man can be used only
to the extent of his knowledge
of the truth. That is why
we have schools and
colleges to broaden our
field of vision, to help
us on to ^{the discovery of} new truths
previously hidden from
us by the clouds of igno-
rance. ^{and to see old truths in new light.}

For example -
✱ "Go ye forth into all the world,"
was an impossible command
for the Apostles to carry, ^{out} because
it was beyond their realm
of ^{their} knowledge. To do 100% of
all God's commands is impos-
sible for any generation. To

To try 100% to do all God's (5)
commands is what every
generation should accomplish.

"If ye follow on ye shall
know the truth." Right
at this point, ^{following on,} is where
most of us fail. We love
to know the truth and
devour it - eagerly and
then ~~believe~~ ^{pigeonhole} that truth,
put it away - and
act on it in the same
light, as though truth
was static. This is
a tree. I can hold it
in my hand. But this
tree 30 years from now
I cannot hold it in
my hand. I cannot do

with it ^{-then.} just as I did
30 years ^{1 previous,} ago, but the tree
will do a hundred times
more things for me. With
years this tree will receive
the rains and sunshine. It
will grow and bear fruit
for my food, the leaves
will provide a mulch for
my garden, the branches,
a shade for my ^{family,} cattle,
lumber for my house and
fire for my furnace.
It is the same tree only
developed. Truth grows
with our experience. It is
the same truth but we now
know more of what it will
do than we did when we
first admitted the truth

to our heart. Truth proceeds ⁶
we tend to retrocede. We
get too far behind the
growing truth. by our de-
sire to keep it in the
same light, the same
size. ^{all truth is increasingly}
_{true as the years go by as far}
_{as truth concerns me.}

If I can read the signs
of the times rightly, it is
at this point the present
generation is dissatisfied
with the past or older gen-
erations. There was a time
when the Presbyterian church
could hold its youth by its
doctrinal appeal to Calvin-
ism, the Meth. Ch. to its
great founder, John Wesley,
the Lutheran to its fidelity

to Luther's doctrine, the
Baptists churches to the
mode of baptism and
the Catholic church to
the necessity of the
confessional - But the
young people of today
cannot see the truth in
that light. Creeds, doctrines,
dogmas and traditions
like all other truths are
compelled by this ^{general} ~~truth~~
~~of today~~ to pass first
under the telescope to
bring them near; then
under the microscope
to see the faults of the
fabric ^{as well as its real worth} and finally
under the acid test

of experience to find ⁽⁷⁾
their practical value to
the Christian in his daily
living. Those not standing
the test of experience are
cast aside. Youth is
asking, after making these
tests of the sectarian
doctrines, - Do these things
help me to love my fellow
men more? Do they in-
crease my field of useful
service to man and
make me feel my obliga-
tion to society and to
my country and to the
human race? ^{and to God?} If not
I want nothing to do
with ^{those teachings} ~~the~~ ~~teachings~~ that

do not help me; seems to
be the verdict of educated
man today.

There was a time when
man was ignorant and
the Confessional was an effect-
ual means ^{in getting} ~~to get~~ the way-
faring sinner back to God.
And the Cath. Ch. filled this service.
There was a time when we
had to be taught to form
definite opinions about us
and to stand out against all others for individual
religious life. ^{sights of free thought} The Protestant
Churches did this service.
The various sectarian
beliefs developed the human
race for independent, logical
reasoning - Truth has
developed today till these
things do not appeal. We
are in the midst of a

a great reformation, probably?
the greatest reformation
the world has ever known
because of its far reaching
results.

God used, in the first
Christian Reformation, the
Greek Culture, the Roman
Law and the Egyptian
stored up knowledge
and reverence for the
past as natural means
for Christ to institute
the first great reformation
~~of the Jewish Church~~
of the religious world.

Fourteen centuries
later He used the means
of ^{the} printing press for the
dissemination of His

truth, as proclaimed by
Luther, Calvin and Knox.
This was about ^{the} intellectual
freedom of the Christian,
but it did not eradicate
but rather preserved
animosities, suspicious
hatreds of the Christian
of one church for the sake
of another sect.

No mere precepts and
preaching could break down
this last wall of obstruction
to the highest development
^{this wall of hatred of one church for another.}
of the Christian Church. It
was necessary to get
peoples acquainted
with each other. Meeting
a stranger, walking and

10
talking with him, you
come to know him, ^{to admire him, to appreciate him} & love
him.

So God uses education
and inventions to bring mankind
together as Britons.
~~and especially~~, Franklin
with his kite & proved the
positive & negative poles
of electricity. Fulton ap-
plied steam to ships.
Railroads traversed the
continents and connected
all peoples with the ships.
Morse, who died only 4
years before I was born,
invented telegraphy.
Thirty years ago I went out
for two summers under the
Student Vol. Movement to
interest churches and

young people in missions.
 In one of my addresses I
 used this statement "By
 our improved and quickened
 method of transportation, by
 our rapid and accurate
 conveyance of thought, this
 old world is fast becoming
 a unit." The sun will soon
 rise on a universal religion
 and what is it to be?"

Since ^{9 years} ~~then~~ that statement ⁴⁰ ~~30~~ years ago,
 with the highways have made
 neighbors of ^{all} individuals ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{of} nations,
 "The airplane has united
 the world of transportation
 and annihilated space.
 The wireless enabled ships
 to sail the seas in close

(11)

Touches with the home land. The radio has come, which recognizes no national boundaries, asks no passport but encircles the globe, fills the air with not only the words but with the likeness of the speaker. We sit in our parlor and are entertained by players of all nations. We hear lectures from all the nations of the world and on every phase of life. We know there is a Westminister Abby but where

We hear the bells of the
abbey ^{pealing} tolling out the hour
we feel it is very near.
The distant is now near.

The foreigner now sits with
us and we hear his voice
in our family circle. When
we came to Porto Rico it was
six to eight days from the
U.S. now it is about six
^{by air plane, and $\frac{1}{60}$ of a second by radio.}
to eight hours away. A
friend of mine sits in his
home in P. Rico and talks
with his father in California.
We are getting acquainted
with each other and
sympathize with people
of all the world.

With the ^{peoples} ~~world~~ drawn

closes and closes and
the facility of world knowl-
edge, ^{increasing} the younger genera-
tion will not accept
exclusiveness, bigotry,
aloofness of any church,
as a part of Christianity.
The thinking young
people today do not
admit ^{any one} form, ritual or
mode, as essential to
Christianity to the exclusion
of all other form, ritual or
mode of worship. From
P. Rico to Alaska, in
fact around the whole
world, regardless of race
or church affiliation,
Protestant and Catholic

~~and~~ Jew ~~and~~ ~~Greek~~ are demanding
a living, modern church -
meeting the needs of man-
kind, clothed in robes of
19th 29. ~~and~~ a growing church
that holds to the essential
Christian truths of the
fatherhood of God and
the brotherhood of man in
Christ-Jesus our Savior
will emerge as the church of the 20 century.

~~They are catching~~ Christ's
~~holdings~~
idea of the Kgd. of God as in
the heart of man, not in
the walls of a cathedral.

We have to admit - that
^{most of us}
~~we~~ are Presbyterians, Baptists,
^{United Brethren,}
Methodists, or Catholics
by accident of birth more
than by choice. / We once

had to travel in ox carts ⁽¹³⁾
or on horse back. There was
principally one way to acquire religious
knowledge;

The Priest and the Minister
told us what we were
to accept and what we
had to reject. The emphasis
was laid ^{mostly} on the Church
and less on the heart as
the seat of religion. Youth
today see and know too
much to allow themselves
to be led to hate other
Christians. And they are
asking hard questions
to answer. Why are the
followers of Christ divided?
Why don't they ^{churches} get together?
How can I live and grow

more like the Master? This generation wants and demands clear thinking in religion the same as in logic or sciences. How can I live in harmony with my fellowman? Christianity and hatred cannot grow in the same heart. Any church organized to oppose other churches does not please the Lord. The reformation today is lifting us out of hatred of stored up suspicions, and into the light of the glorious Gospel of freedom, Cooperation, united effort in advancing the common good of man.

(14)

Sometimes thrones are usurped.
Those who hold them darken and
obscure the corridors of the
palace for their own protection -
lest seen they be ousted.

Years ago I went down into
a saltmine. At the bottom
of the shaft our guide led
us along the tramway
through the caverns of the
salt mine for a mile. Now
and then he would turn
an electric button which
lighted up the great rooms
for hundreds of yards on
both sides. The crystal pillars
against which we ^{now} stumbled in darkness
of salt, reflected the prisma-
tic colors dancing up
and down on all sides.

That is what God does when He enters our hearts. We do not see the beauties and possibilities till God's light enters. We are ignorant of it all and are not interested till God's love lights the fire on our hearts altar.

Young people of the classes of 1929 ^{Have} you allowed Christ, your guide, to turn on the light of His love in your heart? Have you enthroned Him as King in your heart, or are you giving allegiance to His church and allowing some one else to rule and direct your heart?

~~He is saying to you~~

Let us ask ourselves two questions: If the Kingdom of God is growing what is my contribution to its growth? If the Kingdom of God is not growing, where does the fault lie?

In answering these questions may we, each one, find our place in the service of the Kingdom of God and hear our Master's voice

saying:

"This is my commandment that ye love one another, that all Christians may be one, have one shepherd

for one is your Father,
~~God~~ one is your Master,
teacher, even Christ.

Seek ye first His Kingdom
in your own heart, and
then Go publish abroad
The Kingdom of God."