

HOW THE URANTIA BOOK HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

By

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Vice President of Urantia Brotherhood

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GREETINGS TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE CIRCLES:

I am happy to see so many Urantians here with us today. It is always a pleasure to look into the faces of happy people.

Some time ago in reading a magazine I came across an article on negative vs. positive thinking which made such an impression on me that I felt I would like to talk with you about the need for maintaining an optimistic outlook on life.

It is true that we mortals are given a short but intense period of testing. We are constantly called upon to make moral decisions, to make those sincere choices which give birth and growth to our souls. Many of us can testify that the situations we must meet on this disordered planet are varied and demanding. Ours is certainly not a life of ease.

Yet this morning I look out upon happy faces that bear witness that there are many wonderful things that do come our way, that enrich and fill our lives with goodness. These may range from deserved pleasant relaxation and restful sleep, through understanding and patient service to our fellows, to worshipful communion with the Father.

There are many positive and worthwhile things happening in society at large, indeed the world over. While we cannot -- we must not -- be Pollyannas, be oblivious to the large problems facing the world, we likewise must not fail to see the positive, the worthwhile, the promising.

Paul expresses this concisely in Philippians 4:8:

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

At a time when America is suffering from much persecution, chaos, and confusion, I wish we could all look out over the contemporary scene and make it a point to accentuate the positive. While we may be acutely aware of the troubles in our generation, we should not let them obscure the true and honorable, the just and pure, the lovely and gracious. These things are very real; I want to urge you to "think about these things."

We so often tend to dwell on the things that are negative, to consider what is wrong in the world, forgetting what is right. Even the news media keep us informed more adequately about the dishonorable and unjust, the impure and unlovely, while the excellent and the "worthy of praise" are muted by the noisy clamor of the wrong. Life is impoverished by a pessimistic outlook, oftentimes thwarted in its finest endeavors. It takes the spirit of Paul and Jesus to rise

above disillusionment. If injustice and wrong pervade life today, there are also many proper jewels as real and far more abiding than the evil, and on life's journey they are worth considering, so when discouragement threatens us, think about these things: the true, the honorable, the just and the pure, the lovely and gracious, the things worthy of praise.

*"Be not mindful of those things which foster your anxiety, but rather at all times concern yourselves with the doing of the Father's will." (p.1525, Par.4)

*Misfortune has not been the sole lot of Urantia; this planet has also been the most fortunate in the local universe of Nebadon. Urantians should count it all gain if the blunders of their ancestors and the mistakes of their early world rulers so plunged the planet into such a hopeless state that this very background of darkness should so appeal to Michael of Nebadon that he selected this world as the arena wherein to reveal the loving personality of the Father in heaven." (p.853)

*As kingdom believers we should possess an implicit faith, a whole-souled belief, in the certain triumph of righteousness. (p.1739, Par. 8)

*Has Jesus not said: "No matter what blunders your fellowmen make in their world management of today, in an age to come the gospel which I declare to you will rule this very world." (p.1608, Par. 1)

*On page 2075 we find another promise: "In this gigantic struggle between the secular and the spiritual, the religion of Jesus will eventually triumph."

More than ever in these disturbing times is there a need for the introduction of forces in the lives of people for dissolving fear, re-establishing simple faith, making for a finer sense of kinship and harmony in our relations with each other. In Jesus' superb teachings we have an ideal message for the promotion of a spirit of tolerance, of peace and brotherhood among men everywhere.

*We promise a message of good news which is infectious in its transforming power. Our religion is throbbing with new life and new meanings. Those who accept this teaching are filled with joy and in their hearts are constrained to rejoice evermore. Increasing happiness is always the experience of all who are certain about God. (p.1766, Par. 6)

Let us sing along with Pippa, as Browning reveals her to us in his drama entitled "Pippa Passes."

She has one day in a whole year as a release from her drudgery at the silk mills. In her ecstasy she sings:

"The year's at the spring
And day's at the morn,
Morning's at seven,
The hill-side's dew-pearled,
The lark's on the wing,
The snail's on the thorn,
God's in his heaven--
All's right with the world!"