

Layman's Leadership Institute

Billy Graham

I. Introduction.

A. We are to honor our leaders regardless of their religion and pray for them.

B. Text: Matthew 5-7.

C. Jesus never said the Christian life would be easy, but He said that we are blessed in the midst of the reviling if it is for His sake.

II. The church suffers from superficiality.

A. In other parts of the world it costs greatly to be a Christian.

B. We have forgotten that Jesus is to be Lord of our lives.

C. The Bible is God's holy Word.

III. Christ born of a virgin and raised from the dead is alive.

IV. Satan has a system of evil in this world against us.

A. He resists God.

B. He tempts us.

C. He was a great angelic being in rebellion against God. (Ezekiel 28)

D. God does not destroy Satan now because He moves in eternities not seconds.

E. All God's actions are centered in the person of His Son Jesus Christ.

V. Man in his sinful condition was cast out of the Garden of Eden and was denied eternal life so that he would not make a hell of this world.

A. Christ taught that the evil we practice comes from within.

B. The root of our troubles is sin - it is this that must be dealt with.

VI. The kingdom of God is where Christ is.

A. If Christ is to be in you, you must be entirely submitted to Him.

B. Christ is in you through the Holy Spirit today.

C. We will not be able to build the kingdom on earth because of the human equation.

D. You can be a good man but still lack something. - you must be born again.

E. The heart is the seat of life and this is the problem today.

1. We have heart trouble.
2. Our hearts are sinful. (Proverbs 5:18)
3. Because of our heart problem we cannot seek God or discern evil.

F. God knows the secrets of our hearts. (Psalm 24:21, Proverbs 21:2)

G. The Scripture teaches hell.

1. It is not worth the risk to ignore what Jesus says. (2 Thessalonians 1:9)
2. A person sends himself to hell, separating himself forever from God.
3. If Christ is right we had better do what He told us.

VII. How we can come to Christ.

A. God must first prepare your heart. (Proverbs 16, Acts 16, Ephesians 1:18)

B. One must be born again into the kingdom of God - you must be willing to let God will by repenting of your sins.

C. Then you must come to Christ and receive Him.

1. If we are not willing to confess Him before men, then He will not confess us.
2. We have to count the cost and be willing to be different.

VIII. God calls us out to be a unique people.

Application questions

1. How is Satan involved in the affairs of men today?

2. What is the kingdom and how might it be obtained?

3. Are you guilty of superficiality? If so, what can you do in response to this message to address this issue?
