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THEOLOGICAL OBSERVER

METHODIST APOSTASY: FROM FREE GRACE TO FREE WILL

Religion in Life (Summer 1958), under this heading, publishes an article by the Methodist minister R. E. Chiles, based on his doctor's dissertation (Union, Columbia), in which the author traces the development of American Methodism from "free grace" to "free will." What Dr. Chiles writes is clear, thorough, and frank and, therefore, worth reading. As the latest and most pronounced of the "Methodist apostates" from the "Wesleyan norm" he cites the systematician, Prof. Albert C. Knudson (1873—1953). The writer states John Wesley's Arminian trend both lucidly and accurately. His answer to Calvinism was that divine grace is "for all" and "in all." "Every man shares the benefits of the atonement as it arrests the sentence of death, provides for the cancellation of original guilt, and bestows prevenient grace." This prevenient grace is the source of man's responsibility. "Because God works in every man, man *can* (italics original) work; because God works in man, man *must* (italics original) work." "That man must work follows from his ability to do so. God does not save man without regard for man's response to the offer of grace. And it is prevenient grace which lays the foundation for this response." How did this "Wesleyan free grace" fare among American Methodists during the one hundred and fifty years following Wesley's death? In the modification of Wesley's doctrine of grace the author distinguishes three periods, the third ending in 1933. From Wesley's strong soteriological concern the discussion gradually shifted to an anthropological setting until Knudson held that man by nature is free to choose good and God. For Wesley divine prevenient grace was the basis of man's freedom; for Knudson this freedom was intrinsic to man's own nature. It was a matter not of redemption, but of creation.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

THE BYZANTINE CHURCH AND THE PRESENTNESS OF THE PAST

Under this heading, *Theology Today* (April 1958) publishes a gist of the fundamental thoughts which Edwin Hatch (1835—1889) developed in his Hibbert Lectures of 1888 on the "Influence of Greek Ideas and Usages upon the Christian Church" that appeared in 1889, after the author's death. These lectures have now been reprinted (E. Hatch. *The Influence of Greek Ideas on Christianity*. New York: Harper Torchbooks, 1957) and well received, despite the fact that

67 years have passed since their original appearance. At that time there were many who disagreed with the writer's views. It is nevertheless true that the Byzantine Church was deeply influenced by Greek classical thought. "The Greek Church . . . made the classical heritage, in its best aspects, a part of its own intellectual life." ". . . many of the Greek Christian thinkers felt that some of the classical writers, notably Plato, had propounded such teaching that they were entitled to be considered forerunners—though only forerunners—of Christianity. Again, it was found that classical thought was after all sufficiently universal, and sufficiently concerned with humanity, to be capable of being fitted into the Christian faith, whose roots were strong enough to permit it to take over and transform elements from the culture of the world in which it found itself. The result made itself felt not only in speculation but in education and daily life." ". . . we may surmise that the real source of the inner strength of the Byzantine Empire and the reason why it survived for such a long career in the Greek East . . . was the Byzantine cultural tradition, which we have attempted to describe here, based on the Bible and on the ancient national pride of the Greek people." JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

EXCERPTS FROM RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

Berlin.—A declaration warning young people against the "heavy burden of a divided faith" involved in mixed marriages was issued here by the Bishops' Conference of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany (VELKD). The statement was issued in connection with a meeting of the VELKD synod and was ordered to be read in all churches of the denomination on June 15. It specifically warned Protestants about to marry Roman Catholics not to make promises to bring up their children in the Catholic religion "for the sake of an only apparently cheap price which will burden your lifetime."

"Do not renounce an Evangelical wedding," the statement exhorted. "Remain loyal to your Church in such a union and see to it that children are brought up in the Evangelical faith." The statement noted that there had been a "great increase" in mixed marriages as a result of large postwar confessional shifts in Germany. It stressed that "whoever enters a mixed marriage takes upon himself a heavy load. Religion among spouses of the same faith is a strong tie and comfort, but in mixed unions it is frequently a source of disturbance and conflict, particularly over children's education."

Emphasizing that Catholic Canon Law has no effect on Protestant Christians, the statement regretted that "since 1918, when the Catholic

Church substantially sharpened the stipulations in Germany on mixed marriages, partners in such unions are frequently subjected to Catholic pressure, which is in contrast to the Gospel and detrimental to today's joint Christian tasks." The statement took particular exception to the Catholic law which holds that a mixed marriage performed by a Protestant pastor is invalid.

The statement concluded by urging Evangelical pastors and parishes to care particularly for church members living in mixed unions and to see that "justice is done to both love and truth."

According to statistics, over 25 per cent of marriages in Germany in 1956 were mixed unions. This contrasts with the situation in 1901 when mixed marriages numbered only nine per cent of the total.

Detroit.— "This Is the Life," weekly half-hour television program produced by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, received an award from the General Federation of Women's Clubs at the annual federation convention here. The Rev. E. T. Bernthal, Lutheran pastor here, accepted the award on behalf of the Synod. It was the second consecutive year that the program had received a federation award. "This Is the Life" is carried as a public service by more than 320 television stations in the U.S., Canada, and overseas. It is filmed in Hollywood by professionals and has been shown since October 1952.

Minneapolis, Minn.— Four officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church were re-elected at the church's biennial convention here. Renamed for two-year terms were Dr. S. C. Eastvold, Parkland, Wash., first vice-president; Dr. L. M. Stavig, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., second vice-president; Dr. O. H. Hove, Minneapolis, general secretary; and Norman H. Nelson, Minneapolis, treasurer. The term of Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotz, Minneapolis, president, was not up this year.

Minneapolis, Minn.— Norway's once nearly empty churches are filling up again because of the "gift" of an American denomination founded by immigrants from that overseas country, a Norwegian church leader reported here. The "gift" is the preaching-teaching-reaching mission idea developed by the division of evangelism of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, according to the Rev. Olav Egeland. He said that church attendance has greatly increased in congregations of Norway which have had PTR missions. The clergyman said that Bishop Johannes Smemo, Primate of the Lutheran State Church of Norway, regards the missions as "the greatest thing that has happened to our Church in this century."

The ELC, once known as the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, is a "daughter" church of the Church of Norway. Pastor

Egeland, who has been visiting ELC congregations for the past 10 weeks, brought greetings from home to the American church at its 23rd biennial convention here. In an interview, he estimated that nearly three million of Norway's three and a half million people have thus far been invited to attend PTR missions.

The missions mark the first time that the people of Norway—96 per cent of whom belong to the Lutheran State Church—have been called on personally and invited to attend church services, he said. Visits by trained callers is the main reason for the success of the missions, he explained, adding that guest speakers are used in the services.

The PTR missions were begun in Norway three and a half years ago by three ELC leaders in evangelism: Dr. Conrad Thompson and Dr. Oscar Hanson, both of Minneapolis, and Dr. Agnar Tannar of Brooklyn, N. Y., a former Eau Claire, Wis., pastor.

While the PTR missions have improved attendance at churches, Pastor Egeland said, there is still the problem of trying to interest young people in going to services. "Here in the United States we see so many children and youngsters in church," he said. "At home we seldom see any."

Pastor Egeland directs congregational charity work and is responsible for refugee emergency aid for the Church of Norway. In the latter capacity, he visited East Germany twice last year.

Washington, D. C.—The Seventh-day Adventist Church is making plans to merge its major educational institutions in a new multi-million-dollar plant to be located on a 263-acre campus ten miles north of the District of Columbia. The Adventists presently operate Washington Missionary College, the Adventist Theological Seminary, and Potomac University, a new graduate institution, in buildings adjoining the denomination's national headquarters in Takoma Park, Md., a suburb of Washington. The proposed new campus would be located near Spencerville, Md., in a pleasant rural area nine miles north of the present campus.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church increased from 512,000 in 1938 to 1,083,000 in 1957, according to a 20-year statistical report made at the denomination's 23rd biennial convention here by Norman H. Nelson, treasurer. During the last 20 years, Mr. Nelson said, total synodical resources grew from \$11,390,608 to \$47,318,721; and those of local congregations from \$19,776,661 to \$145,849,469.

Blair, Nebr.—An increase in membership of 4½ per cent in the past year was reported by the United Evangelical Lutheran Church at its 62nd annual convention here. Dr. William Larson, church president, said that membership now totalled 64,529. Total benevolent income during the past year was \$540,000, and church members gave \$80 per capita, he said. He reported that 16 new pastors were to be received into the church at the convention. Commencement of mission work in Brazil in co-operation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church was announced.

Winona Lake, Ind.—Delegates attending the 23rd quadrennial General Conference of the Pilgrim Holiness Church here approved, 321 to 100, a proposed merger of their denomination with the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. The Wesleyan Church will vote on the union at its General Conference at Fairmount, Ind., June 1959. If the union is consummated, it would create a new denomination of about 100,000 communicants in some 2,000 widely scattered congregations.

Last March a 10-member joint commission of both denominations voted at a meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, to recommend union of the two churches to their General Conferences. Doctrinally the two bodies are both in the Wesleyan tradition of fundamental early Methodism.

Berlin.—The Rev. Ernst Willy Kohl, a Lutheran pastor of Nossen, Saxony, was sentenced by a Communist court in Dresden to three and a half years' imprisonment for "anti-state slander and agitation." The clergyman was arrested last December for allegedly refusing to bury an atheist woman, a member of a local farming co-operative, in a church cemetery.

Cambridge, Mass.—Dr. Nathan M. Pusey, president of Harvard University, declared here that the "shortcomings" among some who would advance religion have aided the cause of secularism. He told graduating Harvard seniors in a baccalaureate address that in some instances secularism "has itself become a faith and raised a hope that man can through his own efforts—without God—solve all the remaining problems which stand between him and a secular paradise on earth."

Religion, as it is frequently practiced, he said, has several "aesthetic failings." Among them he cited "poor music, impossible hymns, unhelpful moralistic sermons, and the mistaken notion that one goes to church as a favor to God."

Lake Junaluska, N. C.—Concern over recent renewed activities of the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina was expressed by the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church, which also went

on record, by a vote of 91 to 46, favoring admission of Negroes to Duke University Divinity School at Durham, N. C. Exposing of the Klan as an "organization which often cloaks much black hatred under its white robe," was urged in a report of the Board of Social and Economic Relations adopted by the conference.

The resolution regarding Duke Divinity School placed the conference on record as favoring a petition, supported by the school's faculty and students, requesting the university's board of trustees "to restudy its racially-restricted admissions policy, and to reconsider admitting to the Divinity School properly qualified students without regard to race."

Washington, D. C. — President Eisenhower nominated Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Frank A. Tobey (American Baptist) as new chief of Army chaplains. He will succeed Chaplain (Major Gen.) Patrick J. Ryan (Roman Catholic) who will retire November 1 after 30 years of service.

Chaplain Tobey, who was decorated for heroism while serving as chaplain of the U. S. Eighth Army in the Korean War and for gallantry in the Southwest Pacific during World War II, has been deputy chief of Army chaplains since 1954.

Nomination of Chaplain Tobey gives the Armed Forces a complete new line-up of chaplain chiefs. Chaplain (Rear Adm.) George A. Rosso (Roman Catholic) took over from Chaplain (Rear Adm.) Edward B. Harp, Jr. (Evangelical and Reformed), as chief of Navy chaplains June 10. Chaplain (Major Gen.) Terence P. Finnegan (Roman Catholic) is slated to succeed Chaplain (Major Gen.) Charles I. Carpenter (Methodist) August 15.

For a brief period between August 15 and November 1, prior to Chaplain Ryan's retirement, all three corps will be headed by Roman Catholic chaplains, the first time this has ever occurred.

Philadelphia. — Problems of integration and the changing patterns of cities were studied by 60 Lutheran ministers at a two-week school of urban pastors at the Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary, Mount Airy. The United Lutheran Church in America, of which most of the students are pastors, now has more than 300 racially integrated congregations in the U. S. and Canada, the ministers were told.

At the church's biennial convention in October, the Board of American Missions will ask for at least \$1,000,000 to help some city churches remain open to serve Negroes moving into their areas. Dr. Karl S. Henry, board secretary of survey and research, was dean of the school.

Fort Wayne, Ind.—Officials of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod dedicated the new \$8,000,000 Concordia Senior College five miles northeast of here. Situated on a 187-acre campus, it has 28 buildings and housing for faculty members. Under construction for three years, the college will enroll over 400 students in September in junior and senior years. Graduates will be prepared for entrance to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Dr. John W. Behnken, Synod President, was the dedicatory speaker. Two choral vesper services also featured the weekend events.

Designed by Eero Saarinen and Associates of Detroit, the campus has ten main buildings, 12 residence halls, and four counselor's residences. There are also separate apartment buildings for men and women on the operating staff. Faculty residences are provided for the president and 18 professors. Five of the ten classrooms in the 207-foot-long classroom building are two-level rooms. The unit also has a natural science auditorium and a speech-training laboratory. The auditorium has sound-proofed music rooms under the stage.

Another feature of the unusual campus is the 86-foot high Kramer Chapel, which has a 106-foot bell tower next to it. A 50-foot aluminum cross hangs on the chancel wall above the altar. A gymnasium seats 1,800 for athletic events and 3,200 for assemblies. Dining rooms can accommodate 500 students. Each student residence has a lounge, chapel and study room, and accommodates 34 students on five different levels.

St. Louis.—Cornerstone of the new \$400,000 office building of the Lutheran Laymen's League here was laid by A. W. Hermann of New Orleans, international league president. The two-story structure will contain air-conditioned offices, mechanical facilities, and the Dr. Walter A. Maier Chapel-Recording Studio, named for the first Lutheran Hour speaker, who died in 1950. Dr. Arnold H. Grumm, First Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, was the speaker at the ceremony.

The League, which will vacate its present rented quarters in Concordia Publishing House here, has sponsored the Lutheran Hour radio program for 25 years and has promoted a broad program of activities for 41 years.

BRIEF ITEMS FROM THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL

St. Louis, Mo.—The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has named two theological professors to attend the annual meeting of the Commission on Theology of the Lutheran World Federation at Oslo, Norway, August 11—16. The Synod's Committee on Doctrinal Unity

appointed President Alfred O. Fuerbringer and Dr. Paul M. Bretscher of Concordia Theological Seminary at St. Louis to represent Missouri at the six-day session.

The two professors are to convey to the LWF's commission the reasons why membership in the Federation was declined at the 1956 synodical convention of the 2,152,000-member denomination. They will also receive the commission's reactions and discuss the points on which agreement still needs to be reached before the Missouri Synod can consider membership in the international organization, which represents 61 member churches in 32 countries with nearly 50 million members.

The invitation to send representatives to the LWF was extended to officials of the Missouri Synod last fall by Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the Federation, and Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, its executive secretary. Two Americans are members of the Federation's Commission on Theology—Dr. Warren A. Quanbeck, professor of systematic theology at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and Dr. Taito A. Kantonen, professor of systematic theology at Hamma Divinity School in Springfield, Ohio. Its chairman is Dr. Ernst Kinder of the University of Munster, Germany.

St. Louis, Mo.—All congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be urged to make a self-study of their program to determine how well they are serving their communities, the Rev. William H. Hillmer, secretary of Synod's Home Missions Department, has announced.

Developed by the National Lutheran Council, the self-study program utilizes area maps, statistics on growth projections, population characteristics, and similar information. Missouri Synod churches are being encouraged to participate in the NLC project when such a survey is being conducted in an area.

The program of the congregation will then be pitted against the needs of the community to determine areas in which the program should be altered, stepped up, or abandoned. The self-study will apply to both metropolitan and rural congregations, it was explained. The study will also take into consideration other Lutheran churches in various areas, and the need for more churches in districts which are experiencing a population thrust, Mr. Hillmer explained.