

Need to affirm fundamental principles of Christianity

In March last, I was invited by Members of the House of Commons and Senate who belong to the United Church to join in a welcome which they were extending to the newly elected Moderator of the United Church of Canada. The welcome took the form of a luncheon in one of the rooms of our Parliament Buildings. I was careful to let those present know that I was still "a continuing Presbyterian". At the same time, I was anxious to assure them that I was at one with them in support of the crusade which their Church was undertaking to have men and women of Canada, and of other countries as well, affirm anew the fundamental ideals of Christianity.

What I said on that occasion, I should like to repeat this afternoon. We stand today at the cross-roads of the world. The release of atomic energy marks the opening of a new age. Whether the new era will be one of unprecedented progress in human welfare, or of unparalleled destruction, depends, more than all else, on whether the affairs of nations are to be based on a Christian or a pagan philosophy. In many parts of the world, under the strain and stress of two world wars, the spirit of Christianity has been crushed and its place usurped by an atheistic materialism. This is a terrible menace. If we cease to be Christian countries we are

*doomed*