

us will depend on whether or not we keep our moral equipment abreast of our political and material progress. Therefore the church as the corporate conscience of society must take note of the fact that we have entered upon an era of critical importance. It is inane folly to hide from ourselves the fact that we are facing a social crisis. The tendency to the accumulation of great power in the hands of a very few (an accumulation not always the legitimate result of social service, but often the fruit of plunder), the tendency to unrestrained extravagance and boundless luxury, the intensifying of antagonism between classes, disregard for righteousness and justice—these things spell chaos and destruction. A social order that fosters injustices and organizes iniquities cannot long endure. No society that continues monumental evidences of contempt for justice can live.

For this crisis the church, as the chief interpreter of Christianity, must have a message. And I fail to see how its message can suit the needs of the time unless the church pay more attention than she has hitherto done to the social aspect of sin and salvation. According to the plain teaching of Jesus no man knows the meaning of Christian salvation until he is willing to lose himself in the service of mankind. There can be no salvation worthy of the name that does not imply becoming a saviour. A single isolated life *may* find salvation without regard to others, but it is doubtfully, increasingly doubtful, whether such salvation is worth having. The more we think of it, the more apparent it becomes that recovery to the righteous life implies right relations with God's children. It would undoubtedly clear away a great deal of misunderstanding and remove a great barrier to social progress if in our conception of sin and salvation we began with man's duty to man instead of man's duty to God. This does not in any sense mean the denial of our duty to God, but it means getting at our duty to God in the right way. In reality the only evil we have to repent of is what we have wrought in our world by our own selfishness. And there can be no mysterious process by which we can be "white-