

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

A new year is about to dawn, and as we look about us, we see that this great country of ours needs a number of improvements for the future. Some of us say we must do one thing, others say another, but the truth is, the only thing we really need in Canada is the art of right living. Goodness is a greater protection, more necessary to us than our armed forces. The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount are our best reading material. Finding what is true and lovely and of good report, living up to the best of motives, being animated by the spirit of love and service will constitute the greatest security we could possibly have.

And what is right living? It is the gentleness that makes for greatness. It is human pity and sympathy. It is giving others the benefit of every reasonable doubt. It is listening to the still, small voice of Conscience, then going forth to obey that voice with gladness in our hearts. It is trust in the love and wisdom of God. Right living is the mightiest force for good in the world. It protects virtue, enhances courage, and augments all personal qualities where God is present. But the goodness of which we speak is not merely a negative thing. It is character, expressing itself in deeds. Says a noted writer: "It is not enough to be good; we must be good for something." This is right living, the

finest of the fine arts. It is strength of character for good—greater than one's possessions, than one's knowledge, than one's achievements. God does not ask great things of us, but simply asks that we use what we have, start from where we are, do the best we can. We cannot do more than that, and surely we should not do less.

This year, let us place manhood and womanhood above the dollar, principle above policy, public good above partisanship, and—like our Saviour—lose our lives in the life of humanity.

To walk aright we need divine guidance for ourselves and for our beloved nation. With that, we can win life's victory, we can hold fast to what is good, we can retain in our daily lives the forces that build character.

By faith, not fear, through effort, coupled with prayer, never failing, never faltering, we must walk with Him Who leads us to the heights. Let us live right with Him, through faith, in 1957.

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