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G U A R D I A N

*But when the fulness of the
time was come, God sent forth his
Son, made of a woman, made under
the law, to redeem them that were
under the law, that we might receive
the adoption of sons.*

Galatians 4:4

J. Gresham Machen
Editor 1936 - 1937

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worship service attendance averaged 26. Since the use of the new building attendance records have been made each month with a November high in the morning worship of 57, excluding, of course, the special attendance of dedication day. Sunday evening and Wednesday evening services are regularly held. The Sunday school has grown from zero to a membership of 35.

The missionary work of The Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Baltimore is typical city work. Our particular location is not "down-town" nor is it suburban. It is a newer, tightly packed, residential section of row houses. The people are content with their fairly prosperous condition and the busy round of life. Many are nominal Christians with a church connection as re-

mote as the community of their youth from which they have moved to this new location. Urgency of the gospel message must be brought to these hundreds who are unchurched. About 50% of the community is Romanist and some of these have been most cordial when approached.

Church attendance brings people of various connections to us. Presbyterians of several kinds, Lutherans of more than one variety, Romanists, Universalists and others have shown their interest in our church and its message. Perhaps it is some sort of secret supporter who puts dollar bills in the cracks of the church doors with notes reading, "for collection."

The sovereign Holy Spirit can do much here. Pray for his instruments.

"Mr. Valiant-For-Truth"

A review of the recently published biography of Dr. J. Gresham Machen

By JOHN J. DE WAARD

J. Gresham Machen, a Biographical Memoir. By Ned B. Stonehouse. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1954. 520p. \$5.95

"MAY God send us ministers who come forth into their pulpits from a secret place of meditation and prayer, who are servants of Christ and not servants of men, who be they ever so humble are ambassadors of the King, who, as they stand behind the open Bible and expound its blessed words, can truly and honestly say with Micaiah the son of Imlah: 'As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak'."

Such a minister was Dr. J. Gresham Machen, from whose book, *The Christian Faith in the Modern World*, (p. 86) these words are taken. By his word and his deed Dr. Machen has inspired many to be loyal, faithful and true to the Holy Scripture. While he was ever kind, sympathetic and tactful in the best sense of the word, no one was ever in doubt as to where he stood and what he believed. He did not modify truth to win friends, he did not tone down truth to avoid offence. He might have been a popular man, for he had great gifts, but he was hated by many because he would never consider a compromise or anything that might appear to be a compromise. The man was "magnifi-

cent" as some said who did not agree with his theology. He was indeed. Such men the church needs.

This biography of Dr. Machen makes the man stand out, in his strength and simple faith, as he was. He was a kindly gentleman, a defender of the faith, a humble depender on God, the God of the Scriptures, whom he loved and worshipped in Spirit and in truth. Dr. Stonehouse has done an excellent work. The reading of this book is much like living with Dr. Machen—his early years in Baltimore, his education, his great conflict, his spiritual struggle to find the truth and his own place in life, his development as professor and leader in an age of controversy.

It is easy to pick up the book. Many will find it hard to lay the book down again until they have finished it, and they will take it up again to re-read parts of it. It is a tract for the time. Here we read what it means to be a Christian. Here is a description of a minister of the gospel who, by the grace of God, is worthy of his high calling. So the Christian, according to the ability God has given him, will live and labor; so the minister in his own place and time will earnestly contend for the faith delivered to the Church

of Jesus Christ.

The author of this biography stresses the point that Dr. Machen always proclaimed the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. So, for example, the little book *Christianity and Liberalism* is a "summary of Christian doctrine, in the light of modern attacks, it is true, but still with a positive purpose." There are those who will say often and emphatically, Preach the Gospel, attack no position, be not controversial, name no names, lest offence be given. No doubt these folks mean well. But they do not understand. Preaching the Christian truth without attacking error is impossible. Attacking error without naming names is useless. The Lord Jesus did not preach the truth without attacking those who departed from it. The apostles did not attempt a vague warfare. The New Testament is a controversial book which attacks the evil thought and deed. Witnessing for Christ involves witnessing against those who oppose the Lord of Glory. How plain that is made once again in this biography.

The little book *Christianity and Liberalism* sets forth Christian doctrine. It also attacks that which is not Christian. Dr. Machen himself states the aim of this book thus: "What is the difference between modern 'liberal' religion and historic Christianity? An answer to this question is attempted in the present book. The author is convinced that liberalism on the one hand and the religion of the historic Christian church on the other are not two varieties of the same religion, but two different religions proceeding from altogether separate roots" (p. 342).

When Dr. Machen sets forth the truth in regard to God, the Bible, Christ, the Church, and Christian service he of course also exposes the error which often hides itself under these old names. It is only when we know what the Christian faith is that we can know what it is not. Dr. Machen was hated because he tore away the mask behind which men sought to conceal themselves and hide their purposes, some of them not knowing what they did. Those who love the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will love and admire a man who had the gift and the courage to make it plain, so that even the unlearned might read and understand.

This biography also makes it clear that those who continually say, "we

must avoid controversy," are indifferent to sound doctrine and have no real concern for the purity of the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ as it is given to us in Scripture. There are people who do not openly reject the system of truth taught in Scripture, who in fact loudly profess it, but who, nevertheless are perfectly willing to keep their confession in the background when they think it might give offence. They often compliment themselves on being tactful and patient. But such a course is most serious. These people can be more dangerous to the lambs of God for whom Christ died, than others who openly deny the blessed truths of Scripture. There are several incidents recorded in this book which show how much hurt is done the church of Christ by men who will not openly and fearlessly stand for the truth their lips profess. For an example note the story on pages 374 and following.

During his life Machen was often called the stormy petrel of the church, and it was even said that he enjoyed fishing in these troubled waters because of the catch he hoped to get for himself. Those who spoke in this way did not know him, and only expressed their own hatred of the gospel.

Those who love the gospel and admire the man will read perhaps with surprise the story of the conflict of soul through which he had to pass. He was tossed about by many a doubt. He struggled to find his place and work in life. The story is tenderly told. One who knew the man only after his personal battle was won and who only saw him as he stood solidly and firmly, can hardly imagine that there was a time when he had these inner strivings of the soul. But the account helps us to understand his never failing sympathy with his students and their problems.

It is a pleasure to read the story of his tender relation with his mother. One also reads with interest the story of the care he gave to a drunkard, and to a relative. Here we see another side of the man as he really was.

Writing about him as a "man of compassion," Dr. Stonehouse gives us this comment:

"There was another quality which was more remarkable in revealing the true depths of Machen's Christian character, though it may not have been observed as widely as his warmhearted hospitality and comradeship. Perhaps

this quality is not to be sharply distinguished from his friendliness, if we think of it as raised to the highest power and confronted with human need of one sort or another. To call it generosity is to be feeble, though he was generous without calculation and almost to the point of prodigality, and could hardly turn away any one who came to borrow, though that which was lent usually turned out to be a gift. It is perhaps best described as a strong and tender compassion for the weak and suffering and erring that expressed itself in untold, almost inexhaustible acts of mercy, and could be compared—though he would have

indignantly rejected the comparison—with that which had provided the supreme example of such compassion while its even greater meaning lay in its being the redemptive source of power to live after that life." (p. 155f.)

This is a fine book about a noble Christian. May it be read by many. Dr. Stonehouse has done much more than pay tribute to a great man. He has accurately described the Christian life as every humble Christian, trusting in the power and grace of God, through Jesus Christ, may really live it in this world where darkness prevails and where the gospel of God's love is hated.

Orthodox Presbyterian Church News

Franklin Square, N.Y.: On November 7 ground was broken for the new church building. Elder Arthur Hansen turned the ground, Elder Robert Wallace read the Scripture lesson, and the Rev. Elmer Dortzbach, pastor, led in prayer. The congregation hopes to be in the new building by Easter Sunday. About \$10,000 is still needed, through the sale of bonds, to finance the construction. The Pastor and members of the session are visiting homes of the congregation, hearing children recite the Catechism and Bible verses.

East Orange, N.J.: The Congregation of Covenant Church is at present holding services in the Masonic Building, 508 Main Street, East Orange. The pastor, the Rev. Charles H. Ellis, has moved to Bloomfield. Definite plans regarding the future location of the church property are currently being studied.

Wildwood, N.J.: The morning worship service of Calvary church is broadcast over the Wildwood station WCMC every sixth Sunday. A covered dish supper was enjoyed by members of the congregation on the occasion of the recent visit of Missionary Francis Mahaffy. Two young men of the congregation, George Krogman and Alvin Newell, have returned from service with the armed forces.

Nottingham, Pa.: Forty-seven persons attended the Father-Son dinner held at Bethany church November 19. The address was brought by the Rev.

Robley J. Johnston of Middletown, Pa., on the subject, "Men Wanted—in God's Kingdom."

Grove City, Pa.: On November 26 Mr. Wendell Rockey, who has been supplying at Wayside Chapel, was ordained to the ministry and installed as pastor of the church. The Rev. Calvin K. Cummings, of Pittsburgh, Moderator of Ohio Presbytery, presided, and was assisted in the service by the Rev. Robert L. Atwell and the Rev. Francis D. Breisch.

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.: Continuing his missionary visits, the Rev. Francis Mahaffy was at Ft. Lauderdale Church on November 21 where he preached at services morning and evening, and showed slides of the missionary work in Eritrea. Construction of a Sunday school building is under way. The Rev. John P. Galbraith visited the church recently and also addressed the Golden Hour Circle at a covered dish supper.

Gresham, Wisc.: The Rev. Yune Sun Park of Korea Seminary visited Old Stockbridge Church during his stay in America, and preached at a service of the congregation. The Pastor, the Rev. Henry D. Phillips, and his family were the guests at the annual harvest home dinner of Calvary Church, Cedar Grove, Wisc. Mr. Phillips spoke on "Our Missionary Enterprise." Twenty persons are in regular attendance at the Menomonee Bible class. A day recently was set aside for the distri-