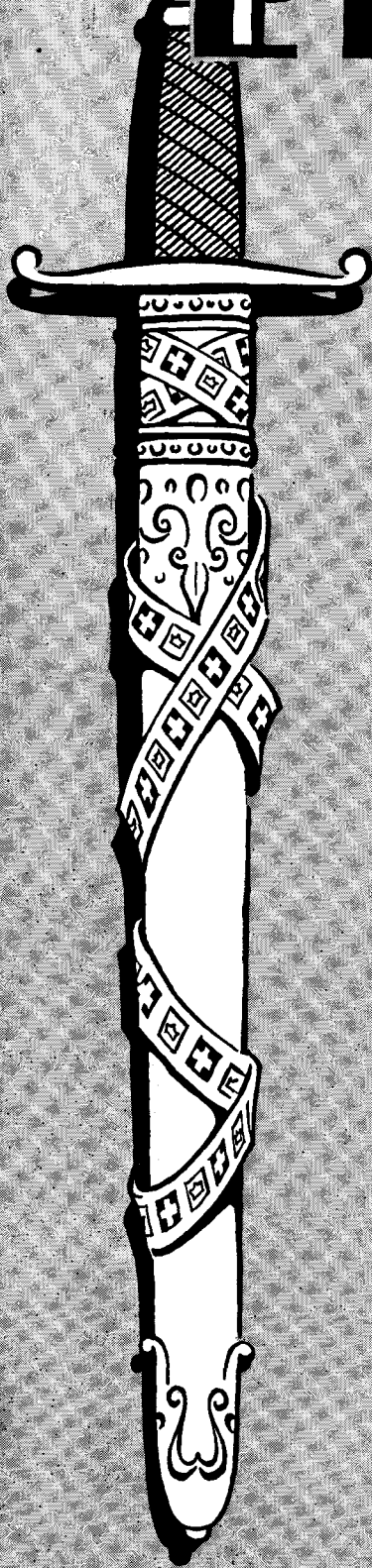


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The Presbyterian Guardian



THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

FROM CALVIN'S "INSTITUTES"

This power is now to be examined—whether the Church has authority to make laws which shall bind the consciences of men. . . . I only contend for this one point, that no necessity ought to be imposed upon consciences in things in which they have been set at liberty by Christ; and without this liberty, as I have before observed, they can have no peace with God. They must acknowledge Christ their Deliverer as their only King, and must be governed by one law of liberty, even the sacred word of the gospel, if they wish to retain the grace which they have once obtained in Christ; they must submit to no slavery; they must be fettered by no bonds.

—Book IV, Chap. X

**THE PRESBYTERIAN
CONSTITUTIONAL
COVENANT UNION**

Mrs. Yessir chirped, "Why, Doctor Terr, that reminds me of Coué's method,

"Every day in every way
I am growing better and better."

"Exactly," said the minister, "that is what we are expected to do in this system. We are to make people good by getting them to blink and blink on Scripture."

"Self-hypnotism," was what Mr. Christian thought.

Then the pastor continued by telling in a tremulous voice of the martyrs who climbed the scaffold and went to the stake in the strength of the Psalms. "I always understood the martyrs died on account of their faith in Christ," Mr. Christian thought. "What comfort would the Psalms be without a faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ?"

The pastor proceeded, "Now let us all sit and continue in the fellowship of silence realizing we are here to unite in building up a civilization trained as Christ was trained to the use of spiritual suggestion."

Mr. Christian arose, "I beg your pardon—"

The pastor's face changed. He

called out "Silence, sit down." Mr. Christian continued standing.

"Put him out," the pastor shrieked. The clerk took Mr. Christian by the arm and pushed him out the door.

The doctor continued, "As I was saying, I commend this method for the deepening of spiritual life and the great access of spiritual power. Of course we should use those verses which bring all together in Christ-like thought and life. The passages which speak of miracles, theologies, etc., are not best for this method for they tend to divide the Church and cause certain people to take a belligerent attitude against those of us who do not consider these things necessary today. It is a great pity that they should think more of faith than of peace, more of truth than of unity, more of purity than of subordination. But such is the case. Now we will recall to our minds some verses and see if they strengthen our minds and hearts."

The company in deep silence began to gaze into space and there they sat. The next morning when the janitor's wife came into the room to clean she was surprised to see the circled group. They were still as statues, blinking and blinking.

to emphasize this conception of God's program. Modern thought as a whole is irrationalistic; any one who wishes to help Christian thought forward and strengthen it against the irrationalism that surrounds us on every side must bring out clearly that God does have a program and that Scripture does give us a system of doctrine. All the good that Dr. Heim has said in this book, if it is to be interpreted in consistency with the basic contrast he himself makes between person and program, falls to the ground.

It seems to be a phenomenon of the times that men hold to several individual Christian doctrines and yet deny the foundation of all Christian doctrine. Dr. Lewis in his book, "A Christian Manifesto," seems to hold at least to some Christian doctrines. Dr. Heim's book contains a far greater proportion of orthodox teaching than Dr. Lewis' book. It is this latter fact that makes the book of Dr. Heim still more dangerous than the book of Dr. Lewis. Dr. Lewis' book is so obviously heretical in its every chapter that he who runs may read. Not so with Dr. Heim's book; its error is more subtle and for that reason more dangerous.

A Significant Book

A Review

By the REV. CORNELIUS VAN TIL, Ph.D.

Professor of Apologetics in Westminster Theological Seminary.

"The Church of Christ and the Problems of the Day" by Karl Heim, D.D., Ph.D., Professor of Theology in the University of Tubingen, Germany (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York).



Dr. Van Til

THIS is a book to make one sad. There is a great deal of good in it, but it also contains a fundamental error. The error referred to is epitomized in the opening sentence of chapter five. Here Dr. Heim says: "The essence of Christianity does not lie in a philosophy or a system of doctrine, nor in an ethic, but in a person." Now if this basic statement about Christianity is true we can no longer read our Bibles as the expression of the program of God for our-

selves and the world. We are then left in complete uncertainty as to the future. Speaking of the resurrection of the dead Dr. Heim says: "Our future is based solely upon His creative power. He can leave us in nothingness if it is His desire. And He can call us into new being" (p. 170). To be sure, Dr. Heim adds that through our contact with the risen One "we become certain that God will take the latter course," but if we may really believe that God could leave us in nothingness we are at best uncertain. All this, we believe, is contrary to Scripture. The Scripture knows of no contrast between a person and a program; it teaches us about an absolute person with an absolute program.

In the modern situation we need

Who's Who in This Issue

THE Rev. J. Gresham Machen, D.D., Litt.D., is President of The Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions and Professor of New Testament in Westminster Theological Seminary. The Rev. Henry G. Welton is Pastor of the Head of Christiana Church, Newark, Delaware. The Rev. Cornelius Van Til, Ph.D., is Professor of Apologetics in Westminster Theological Seminary. The Rev. Charles J. Woodbridge is General Secretary of The Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions. Mr. D. T. Richman is a prominent Ruling Elder of Philadelphia. The Rev. Gerard H. Snell is temporary supply at the Allegan (Mich.) Church. Miss Marian Bishop Bower, of Collingswood, New Jersey, is a successful and talented teacher of children. The Rev. David Freeman is Pastor of Grace Church. Mr. Phil Saint is a popular young Christian artist and evangelist.