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Hatred is Only Skin Deep - Transcript

John Allen Chalk

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Herald of Truth
Program #858
"Hatred Is Only Skin Deep"

8/10/68
WRC

Program #858

CHALK:

~~This is~~ ^{I'm} John Allen Chalk. In just a minute I will be discussing the Racial Revolution....what it means to you. ^{Please} ~~listen carefully and then write~~ ^{INVOLVED -- WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!} ~~and tell us your response.~~

MUSIC:

A WONDERFUL SAVIOR

ALLISON:

Churches of Christ welcome you ~~the~~ ^{to} the 858th broadcast of Herald of Truth. Produced by the Highland Church of Christ, Abilene, Texas, each Herald of Truth broadcast is designed to proclaim the eternal Word of Christ for a changing world of crisis.

MUSIC:

LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT

ALLISON:

Throughout this summer on Herald of Truth ~~broadcasts~~ you can hear a special series called "Three American Revolutions." Today's discussion begins a July series on the Racial Revolution. Information on how to receive a free copy of this and other messages will follow shortly. Now here is John Allen Chalk to speak on the subject "HATRED IS ONLY SKIN DEEP."

CHALK:

Sermon

MUSIC

THE GOSPEL IS FOR ALL *SUN OF MY SOUL*

CHALK:

(Music up for one verse and under
for Chalk's insert--then up to
close of hymn.)

ALLISON:

You have heard a message by John
Allen Chalk entitled "HATRED^D IS ONLY
SKIN DEEP." Printed copies of
today's message are available without
cost. Just write us a card or letter
and ask for program number 858. That's
number eight-five-eight. Also, we
invite you to enroll in our free Bible
correspondence course, available in
English, Spanish, French, and German;
and, it^{is} available in Braille. We
invite your Bible-related questions
which will receive immediate personal
attention. Please address all cor-
respondence to John Allen Chalk, Box
2001, Abilene, Texas. That's John
Allen Chalk, Box 2001, Abilene, Texas. 79604

MUSIC:

THE LORD BLESS YOU

TAG FOR HERALD OF TRUTH RADIO SERMON NO. 858

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ONE EFFECTIVE ANSWER TO RACISM IN AMERICA? I WANT YOU TO WRITE ME TODAY FOR A SERIES OF BIBLE STUDIES THAT WILL EFFECTIVELY INTRODUCE YOU TO FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIANITY. THESE STUDIES, OFFERED AT NO COST TO YOU, WILL SHOW THE VICTORIES THAT CAN BE WON BY FAITH IN CHRIST AFTER THE NEW TESTAMENT ORDER.

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN THE OBJECT OF RACISM'S SCORN AND ABUSE. IF SO, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES, SHOULD YOU CARE TO RECALL THEM. OR RACISM IN YOUR OWN HEART MAY HAVE CAUSED YOU TO INJURE SOMEONE OF A DIFFERENT RACE. WOULD YOU SHARE THAT WITH ME? OTHERS CAN PROFIT FROM OUR SUFFERING AND OUR SIN, IF WE WILL ONLY ALLOW IT TO BE KNOWN. ALSO DON'T FORGET TO WRITE FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF TODAY'S LESSON NUMBER 858. WRITE TO ME: JOHN ALLEN CHALK, P.O. BOX 2001, ABILENE, TEXAS 79604.

HATRED IS ONLY SKIN DEEP

JULY 7, 1968

JOHN ALLEN CHALK

"OUR NATION IS MOVING TOWARD TWO SOCIETIES, ONE BLACK, ONE WHITE--SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL....DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION HAVE LONG PERMEATED MUCH OF AMERICAN LIFE; THEY NOW THREATEN THE FUTURE OF EVERY AMERICAN...."

SEGREGATION AND POVERTY HAVE CREATED IN THE RACIAL GHETTO A DESTRUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT TOTALLY UNKNOWN TO MOST WHITE AMERICANS. WHAT WHITE AMERICANS HAVE NEVER FULLY UNDERSTOOD--BUT WHAT THE NEGRO CAN NEVER FORGET-- IS THAT WHITE SOCIETY IS DEEPLY IMPLICATED IN THE GHETTO. WHITE INSTITUTIONS CREATED IT, WHITE INSTITUTIONS MAINTAIN IT, AND WHITE SOCIETY CONDONES IT." (PP. 1-2, REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CIVIL DISORDERS. NEW YORK: BANTAM BOOKS, 1968).

YOU PROBABLY RECOGNIZE THESE WORDS AS PART OF THE CONTROVERSIAL REPORT GIVEN PRESIDENT JOHNSON EARLIER THIS YEAR BY THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CIVIL DISORDERS. I HAVE JUST TAKEN ANOTHER LOOK AT THE LIST OF DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS WHO SERVED ON THAT COMMISSION. YOU AND I WOULD DO WELL TO THINK TWICE BEFORE WE, FOR ANY REASON, DISMISS THEIR GRAVE INDICTMENT OF RACISM IN AMERICA.

IF YOU ARE LISTENING TO ME IN A PHILADELPHIA GHETTO YOU PROBABLY ARE INCENSED THAT THE COMMISSION DIDN'T SPEAK MORE PLAINLY, DIDN'T "TELL IT LIKE IT IS." IF YOU ARE A LISTENER IN A COMFORTABLE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SUBURB YOU PROBABLY HAVE ALREADY STARTED FOR THE

RADIO DIAL TO TURN OFF THIS PROGRAM BECAUSE YOU THINK THE COMMISSION'S REPORT IS NOT AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF EITHER AMERICA OR AMERICANS. AND THAT'S THE TWO CAMPS INTO WHICH THIS COUNTRY IS BEING DIVIDED TODAY: THE ANGRY BLACK MAN WHO HAS NOTHING GOOD TO SAY ABOUT MATERIALISTIC, SELF-CENTERED, WHITE SOCIETY; AND THE BEWILDERED MIDDLE-CLASS, AVERAGE INCOME, WHITE AMERICAN WHO SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS AND SAYS: "I'M NOT PREJUDICED. I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING TO ANYBODY. WHY SHOULD I BE BLAMED FOR THE TROUBLE IN THIS COUNTRY?"

YET, THIS GROUP OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, BUSINESS EXECUTIVES, LABOR AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS, AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS CHARGED ONE HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION AMERICANS WITH "WHITE RACISM."

"BUT I'M NOT A RACIST," YOU OBJECT. THEN TAKE THIS FOLLOWING TEST, EXAMINE YOUR OWN HEART, LOOK CAREFULLY AT YOUR OWN CONSCIENCE, AND SEE HOW YOU FARE.

WHITE RACISM SAYS THAT THE NEGRO BELONGS TO A DISTINCT AND SEPARATE RACE OF MANKIND THAT HAS EXISTED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME.

WHITE RACISM BELIEVES THAT THE NEGRO RACE HAS NO COMMON ANCESTRY WITH OTHER HUMAN BEINGS. THIS RACE STARTED FROM A DISTINCT STOCK THAT HAS REMAINED LARGELY UNCHANGED UNTIL NOW.

WHITE RACISM HOLDS THAT THE BLACK MAN IS A DISTINCT BIOLOGICAL SPECIES THAT FALLS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN WHITE MEN AND APES.

WHITE RACISM TEACHES THAT ALL WHITE MEN IN AMERICA ARE PART OF ONE COMMON RACIAL GROUP WHICH GOES BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF MANKIND. THE WHITE MAN IS SUPERIOR, IN EVERY IMPORTANT RESPECT, FROM THE BLACK MAN, IT IS CHARGED.

AND WHITE RACISM ALSO BELIEVES THAT REGARDLESS OF PERSONAL ABILITY AND ACHIEVEMENT, EVERY NEGRO IS MORE SIMILAR TO ALL OTHER NEGROES THAN TO A PERSON OF COMPARABLE SKILLS AND INTELLIGENCE WHO

HAPPENS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE WHITE RACE (AN AMERICAN DILEMMA, NEW YORK: HARPER AND BROTHERS, 1944, PP. 103-104, GUNNAR MYRDAL.) IN OTHER WORDS, THE BLACK BRAIN SURGEON IS MORE LIKE THE BLACK SHARECROPPER THAN HE IS THE WHITE BRAIN SURGEON, WHO MAY BE HIS ASSOCIATE IN MEDICAL PRACTICE!

BLACK RACISM HAS ALSO TAKEN ITS TOLL ON AMERICANS IN RECENT DAYS. THE SAME IDEAS WE HAVE JUST MENTIONED ARE TURNED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, SOME STRANGE RELIGIOUS IDEAS ARE ADDED, AND THE WHITE MAN BECOMES A "DEVIL" WHO HAS A UNIQUE KINSHIP TO "MONKEYS, APES AND SWINE." (P. 103, ELIJAH MUHAMMAD, MESSAGE TO THE BLACKMAN IN AMERICA, CHICAGO: MUHAMMAD MOSQUE OF ISLAM No. 2, 1965.)

THEREFORE, TOTAL SEPARATION FROM THE WHITE MAN MUST BE STRICTLY OBSERVED IF THE BLACK MAN IS TO KNOW HIS FULL STRENGTH AND SUPERIORITY, THIS IRRATIONAL FORM OF RACISM DEMANDS.

I HAVE DETAILED THESE IDOLATROUS TENETS BECAUSE RACISM THREATENS THE VERY HEART OF CHRISTIANITY, STRIKES AT THE ROOT OF ALL BIBLICAL TRUTH, AND DIRECTLY VIOLATES THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

RACISM'S CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIANITY IS MORE THAN A THEORETICAL, "WORD BATTLE." DESPERATE MEN HAVE COMMITTED UNIMAGINABLE ATROCITIES IN THE NAME OF A SUPERIOR RACE. DO YOU REMEMBER WHO SAID THESE WORDS: "EVERYTHING WE ADMIRE ON THIS EARTH TODAY--SCIENCE AND ART, TECHNOLOGY AND INVENTIONS--IS ONLY THE CREATIVE PRODUCT OF A FEW PEOPLES AND ORIGINALLY PERHAPS OF ONE RACE. ON THEM DEPENDS THE EXISTENCE OF THIS WHOLE CULTURE. IF THEY PERISH, THE BEAUTY OF THIS EARTH WILL SINK INTO THE GRAVE WITH THEM." SO WROTE ADOLF HITLER IN MEIN KAMPE (P. 288, TRANSLATION BY RALPH MANHEIM, BOSTON: HOUGHTON MIFFLIN Co., 1943.) "FOR THE FORMATION OF HIGHER CULTURES," HITLER EXPLAINED, "THE EXISTENCE OF LOWER HUMAN TYPES WAS ONE OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL PRECONDITIONS, SINCE THEY ALONE WERE ABLE

TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LACK OF TECHNICAL AIDS WITHOUT WHICH A HIGHER DEVELOPMENT IS NOT CONCEIVABLE. IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE FIRST CULTURE OF HUMANITY WAS BASED LESS ON THE TAMED ANIMAL THAN ON THE USE OF LOWER HUMAN BEINGS," (P. 295, IBID.) HITLER'S JUSTIFICATION OF NAZI PRETENSIONS TO ARYAN SUPERIORITY CENTERED IN THE TWIN OBSERVATIONS THAT "EVERY ANIMAL MATES ONLY WITH A MEMBER OF THE SAME SPECIES" (P. 284, IBID.) AND THE MIXING OF THE "BLOODS" OF TWO HUMAN RACES WILL ALWAYS BRING ABOUT THE LOSS OF THE SUPERIOR RACE'S GREATNESS (PP. 286, 296-297).

IF YOU FIND THESE WORDS STRANGELY FAMILIAR, DON'T SIMPLY THINK OF HITLER'S RADIO BROADCASTS. YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THESE SAME FALSE IDEAS ACROSS THE BACKYARD FENCE, IN CHURCH STUDY GROUPS, AT THE SHOP DURING COFFEE BREAK, OR IN THE OFFICES OF SOME EDUCATIONAL, POLITICAL, BUSINESS, AND LABOR LEADERS I KNOW.

THERE ARE AT LEAST TEN REASONS WHY RACISM IS IDOLATRY AND STANDS UNDER THE JUDGMENT OF GOD AND THE BIBLE. TENETS OF RACISM, WHETHER WHITE OR BLACK RACISM, CONFLICT WITH THE TEACHINGS OF THE GOD OF THE BIBLE. LISTEN, THINK, AND MAKE YOUR CHOICE.

OUR FIRST GROUP OF REASONS WHY RACISM IS FALSE AND MUST BE REJECTED CENTER IN THE PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD (MATTHEW 22:37).

OBSERVATION NUMBER ONE: RACISM ATTACKS THE WISDOM AND GOODNESS OF GOD, THE FATHER. "GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD CREATED HE HIM; MALE AND FEMALE CREATED HE THEM," WE READ IN THE VERY FIRST CHAPTER OF THE BIBLE (GENESIS 1:27). THE WHITE RACIST SAYS THAT CAUCASIANS ARE GOD'S FAVORED PEOPLE. THE BLACK RACIST, IN REACTION, OR PERHAPS, IN SELF-DEFENSE, INVENTS HIS OWN MYTHS OF GOD'S FAVORITISM TOWARD BLACK SKIN. BOTH ARE WRONG! EVERY MAN, REGARDLESS OF COLORATION AND CONDITION BEARS GOD'S "IMAGE,"

THE BIBLE ALSO DESCRIBES THE HUMAN FAMILY'S ORIGINAL SIN, THE

FALL OF ADAM AND EVE (GENESIS 3:1-8). THROUGH THEIR TRANSGRESSION, THE APOSTLE PAUL EXPLAINS, SIN ENTERED INTO THE WORLD UNTIL THIS DAY. CHRIST, HOWEVER, BROUGHT GOD'S SOLUTION TO THIS AGE-OLD HUMAN PROBLEM. AS THERE WAS ONE ADAM THROUGH WHOSE SIN INVADED THE HUMAN FAMILY, SO THROUGH THE SECOND ADAM, JESUS CHRIST, THE FINAL SOLUTION FOR SIN OCCURRED (ROMANS 5:12-21). RACISM CALLS FOR "A SECOND FALL" OF CERTAIN GROUPS OR RACES OF MEN BY WHICH THEY BECOME INFERIOR MEN. THIS VIOLATES THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST.

OBSERVATION NUMBER TWO: RACISM OPPOSES GOD, THE SON. JESUS CHRIST IS OUR HOPE, HE IS OUR ANSWER (TITUS 2:14). IN HIM "WE HAVE OUR REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR TRESPASSES, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE" (EPHESIANS 1:7). ALL FORMS OF RACISM ARE BUILT ON THE ALLEGED "SUPERIOR" BLOOD OF THE DOMINATE GROUP OR RACE RATHER THAN ON THE "BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST" WHICH GIVES ALL MEN THEIR HOPE OF GOD'S LIFE AND FORGIVENESS (HEBREWS 9:13-15).

Observation Number Three: Racism denies God, the Holy Spirit. The Racist makes all His value judgments on a fleshly, physical basis. God, however, "seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looketh on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7). With the Apostle Paul, the Christian says to the racist: "Wherefore we henceforth know no man after the flesh:..." (II Cor. 5:10).

As surely as racism openly flaunts God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, so this idolatry also affects and corrupts our relationship with others. Instead of "loving our neighbors", racism invariably promotes human pride, arrogance, and the disruption of any meaningful communication and association with those who differ with us.

Observation Number Four: Racism attacks the Church of Jesus

CHRIST. RACIST DOCTRINES DEMAND THAT VARYING ETHNIC GROUPS REMAIN SEPARATED FROM ONE ANOTHER IN EVERY IMPORTANT AREA OF LIFE. BUT THE CHURCH THAT IS "A HABITATION OF GOD IN THE SPIRIT," INCLUDES ALL KINDS OF MEN, BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES (EPHESIANS 2:11-22). IN JESUS CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH ALL KINDS OF MEN FIND THIS KIND OF UNITY: "WHERE THERE CANNOT BE GREEK AND JEW, CIRCUMCISION AND UNCIRCUMCISION, BARBARIAN, SCYTHIAN, BONDMAN, FREEMAN; BUT CHRIST IS ALL, AND IN ALL" (COLOSSIANS 3:11). ISAIAH, THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET, SAID THAT GOD'S HOUSE, THE CHURCH, WOULD KNOW THE MEMBERSHIP OF "ALL NATIONS" AND "MANY PEOPLES" (ISAIAH 2:2-3). THIS TRUTH RACISM DENIES.

ON THE VERY FIRST DAY OF THE CHURCH'S EXISTENCE, MEN FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, OUT OF VARYING SOCIAL, NATIONAL, AND CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS, CAME INTO THE CHURCH (ACTS 2:5-11). AND LATER WHEN THE APOSTLE PETER PRACTICED SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION WITHIN THE CHURCH, THE APOSTLE PAUL "RESISTED HIM TO THE FACE, BECAUSE HE STOOD CONDEMNED" (GALATIANS 2:11). WHAT IF EVERY CHRISTIAN IN AMERICA THIS WEEK CONFRONTED RACISM IN THE SAME SPIRIT AND WITH THE SAME EARNESTNESS AS DID PAUL?

OBSERVATION NUMBER FIVE: RACISM OFTEN MISDIRECTS CHRISTIANS WHO ARE UNDER THE ORDERS OF JESUS CHRIST TO "GO INTO ALL THE WORLD, AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE CREATION" (MARK 16:15). EVERY COMMITTED DISCIPLE OF JESUS KNOWS THE PRIVILEGE OF BEARING TESTIMONY TO THE GOSPEL'S POWER TO SAVE (ROMANS 1:6). RACISM WOULD MODIFY CHRIST'S WORDS TO MEAN, "GO YE THEREFORE AND TEACH YOUR OWN KIND," OR EVEN WORSE, "GO YE THEREFORE AND TEACH ALL NATIONS, MAKING SURE TO KEEP THEM IN THEIR PLACE" (MATTHEW 28:19-20). I CAN PAINFULLY TESTIFY THAT AS CHRISTIANS DUPED BY RACISM, BOWING BEFORE THE FALSE GOD OF RACISM INSTEAD OF JEHOVAH GOD, WE SET OUT TO EVANGELIZE AFRICA WHILE SEGREGATING OUR OWN CHURCHES IN AMERICA.

OBSERVATION NUMBER SIX: RACISM REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST OVER ALL AREAS OF HUMAN THOUGHT AND CONDUCT. "THE GOD WHO MADE THE WORLD AND ALL THINGS THEREIN" IS "THE LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH," PAUL DECLARED TO THE PHILOSOPHERS OF ATHENS (ACTS 17:24).

WHAT THIS SAYS IS THAT THE CHRISTIAN DOESN'T SUPPORT "WHITE-ONLY" OR "BLACK-ONLY" ENTERPRISES SIX DAYS EACH WEEK AND THEN FAITHFULLY WORSHIP GOD ON SUNDAY. THE CHRISTIAN CARRIES THE BURDEN OF MAN'S DIVINE NATURE, THE UNITY OF THE HUMAN FAMILY AS CREATED BY GOD, WITH HIM WHEREVER HE GOES, INTO ALL KINDS OF RELATIONSHIPS--SOCIALLY, PERSONALLY, ECONOMICALLY, SPIRITUALLY. THE CHRISTIAN, THE ONE WHOSE LIFE IS UNDER THE LORDLY DIRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST, CAN NOT TALK ABOUT "LOVING HIS NEIGHBOR" ON SUNDAY AND THEN KEEP FROM BEING A NEIGHBOR TO ALL MEN THE REST OF THE WEEK. SINCE GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS, THE BELIEVER IN GOD CAN NOT RESPECT PERSONS FOR THEIR RACE (ACTS 10:43). "BUT I'M NOT A RESPECTER OF PERSONS," YOU SAY. THEN WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FIRST WHITE ON YOUR BLOCK WHO SOLD HIS HOUSE TO A NEGRO FAMILY? WOULD YOU STAY? WOULD YOU SELL? WHAT WOULD YOU VOTE FOR, IF YOUR CHURCH DECIDED TO LEAVE SUCH A NEIGHBORHOOD? THE COURAGEOUS CHRISTIAN WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE IN A RACIALLY CHANGING NEIGHBORHOOD DEMONSTRATING GOD'S RECONCILING GOSPEL TO HIS WHITE AND BLACK NEIGHBORS.

OBSERVATION NUMBER SEVEN: RACISM DEPENDS ON THE IDOLATRY OF GROUP-PRESERVATION AND THE ANIMAL PRINCIPLE OF SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST. ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST RACISTS SAID: "THOSE WHO WANT TO LIVE, LET THEM FIGHT, AND THOSE WHO DO NOT WANT TO FIGHT IN THIS WORLD OF ETERNAL STRUGGLE DO NOT DESIRE TO LIVE." (P. 289, ADOLF HITLER, MEIN KAMPF. BOSTON: HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY, 1943.) RACISM DEMANDS

the preservation of blood purity at any cost. This is done only by physically subjugating the weaker races with allegedly inferior blood. Is it necessary to contrast this attitude with that Jesus taught regarding our concern for others: "Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you" (Matthew 5:43-44)? The Apostle Paul instructed Christians: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with Good" (Romans 12:21). Our first three observations exposed racism's attacks on God. We also have just looked at three ways racism distorts our relationships with others. Racism further threatens man's understanding of himself. Let's notice the following observations.

Observation Number Eight: Racism destroys a proper Biblical view of one's self. The healthy respect for one's self fostered by the Biblical doctrine of creation and human nature is lost in the racist's creed. Jesus said that He came that all men, not a racially distinct group but all men, might "have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). God so loved the world (all men) that He "gave His only begotten Son" to die for our sins (John 3:16). Christianity is individual. Racism is collective. Racism says the individual must be sacrificed for the evolutionary development of the master race.

Observation Number Nine: Racism destroys the universal character of Christianity. The Old Testament prophets pointed to the reign of God over all men (Isaiah 2:2-3; 42:1-4; Jeremiah 31:31-33). Paul triumphantly concluded: "We are all one man in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27). Racism is attractive to those who prefer a group, herd-like, collectivist consciousness that breeds hate and violence rather than the stability and peace that comes with God's personal acceptance of

THEM. BUT THE INDIVIDUAL WHO KNOWS THAT HE OR SHE HAS BEEN MADE "NEW" IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST (II CORINTHIANS 5:17-21), RACISM IS A VILE REPUDIATION OF EVERY THING HUMAN AND DIVINE.

OBSERVATION NUMBER TEN: RACISM'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON MY ATTITUDES AND YOURS. WILL YOU OPPOSE RACISM IN A LOVING, COURAGEOUS MANNER? ONE THING IS CERTAIN: A DAY OF JUDGMENT HAS DAWNED ON AMERICA AS A NATION, AND A DAY OF JUDGMENT IS COMING TO EVERY MAN, WHEN CHRIST RETURNS TO EXECUTE GOD'S DISCERNMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS YOU AND I HAVE MADE TO HUMANITY (II CORINTHIANS 5:10).

TRADITIONAL CHRISTIANITY HAS FAILED TO ANSWER THE CHALLENGE OF RACISM. IT IS CONTINUALLY CHARGED FROM ALL QUARTERS: "THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK HOUR ON SUNDAY MORNING IS THE MOST SEGREGATED HOUR OF THE WEEK." MODERN-DAY CHURCHES ARE SO ENCRUSTED WITH TRADITIONS OF MEN AND SO REFLECTIVE OF TODAY'S CULTURE THAT CHRIST'S CONVICTING MESSAGE OF TRUTH AND LOVE GOES UNHEARD. JESUS CHARGED THE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE OF HIS DAY WITH "LIP WORSHIP" INSTEAD OF "HEART WORSHIP." YOU TEACH FOR THE TRUTH "THE PRECEPTS OF MEN," HE TOLD THE PHARISEES (MATTHEW 15:7-9). CHURCH MEMBERS LIKEWISE ARE SO OVERWHELMED BY THE IDOLATRY OF RACISM THAT ONE CAN SEE NO DISCERNIBLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PREJUDICES AND HATREDS OF THOSE IN AND OUT OF THE CHURCH.

WHERE RACISM FLOURISHES CHRISTIANITY DIES. AND WHERE CHRIST RULES THE HEARTS AND LIVES OF MEN RACISM IS DESTROYED. BUT THE CHRISTIANITY THAT DESTROYS RACISM WILL NOT BE THE WEAK, WATERED-DOWN, RESHAPED CARICATURE OF CHRISTIANITY THAT FLOURISHES TODAY. EARLY CHRISTIANS LIVING WITHIN THE CHURCH'S FIRST HUNDRED YEARS, FOUGHT RACISM IN AND OUT OF THE CHURCH. PETER CONFESSED HIS RACISM AND REPENTED OF IT (ACTS 10:34-47). PAUL ALLOWED NO RACIAL BARRIERS TO PREVENT HIM FROM PREACHING CHRIST TO ALL MEN (I CORINTHIANS 9:19-22). EARLY CONGREGATIONS HAD ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE, FROM ALL WALKS, CONDITIONS,

AND RACES, WITHIN THEM (ACTS 6:1-6; COLOSSIANS 3:11; ROMANS 16:1-15).

THE CHRISTIAN BELIEVES THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SOLUTION TO MAN'S SIN AND HATRED (EPHESIANS 2:11-22). THE CHRISTIAN RESPONDS TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS BY CONSCIOUSLY ALLOWING THE TRUTH OF CHRIST TO BE HIS STANDARD FOR LIFE (ROMANS 10:9-10; 14:7-9). THE CHRISTIAN IS THAT PERSON WHO HAS REPENTED OF HIS WORSHIP OF ALL IDOLS (ROMANS 6:12-14). THE CHRISTIAN IS A FAITHFUL, OBEDIENT FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST, WHO IN HIS BAPTISMAL UNION WITH CHRIST HAS RECEIVED GOD'S FORGIVENESS, LIFE, AND POWER (ROMANS 6:1-7; ACTS 2:38; I JOHN 4:11-12; ACTS 5:32).

THIS KIND OF PERSON, COMMITTED TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AS TAUGHT AND LIVED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, WILL BALANCE THE SCALES IN THE MIGHTY STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE IDOL OF RACISM AND THE GOD OF ALL MEN.



John Allen Chalk, Radio Speaker

Radio and Television



Herald of Truth

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Hatred Is Only Skin Deep

No. 858

"Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white--separate and unequal. . . .Discrimination and segregation have long permeated much of American life; they now threaten the future of every American. . . .Segregation and poverty have created in the racial ghetto a destructive environment totally unknown to most white Americans. What white Americans have never fully understood--but what the Negro can never forget--is that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it." (pp. 1-2 *Report of the National Advisory Commission of Civil Disorders*. New York: Bantam Book, 1968).

You probably recognize these words as part of the controversial report given President Johnson earlier this year by the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. I have just taken another look at the list of distinguished Americans who served on that commission. You and I would do well to think twice before we, for any reason, dismiss their grave indictment of racism in America.

If you are listening to me in a Philadelphia ghetto you probably are incensed that the Commission didn't speak more plainly. Didn't "tell it like it is." If you are a listener in a comfortable Southern California suburb you probably have already started for the radio dial to turn off this program because you think the commission's report is not an accurate picture of either America or Americans. And that's the two camps into which this country is being divided today: the angry black man who has nothing good to say about the materialistic, self-centered, white society; and the bewildered middle-class, average income, white American who shrugs his shoulders and says: "I'm not prejudiced. I've never done anything to anybody. Why should I be blamed for the trouble in this country?"

Yet, this group of elected officials, business executives, labor and educational leaders, and other distinguished Americans charged one hundred fifty million Americans with "white racism."

WHITE RACISM

"But I'm not a racist," you object. Then take this following test, examine your own heart, look carefully at your own conscience, and see how you fare.

White racism says that the Negro belongs to a distinct and separate race of mankind that has existed since the beginning of time.

White racism believes that the Negro race has no common ancestry with other human beings. This race started from a distinct stock that has remained largely unchanged until now.

White racism holds that the black man is a distinct biological species that falls somewhere between white men and apes.

White racism teaches that all white men in America are part of one common racial group which goes back to the beginning of mankind. The white man is superior, in every important respect, from the black man, it is charged.

And white racism also believes that regardless of personal ability and achievement, every Negro is more similar to all other Negroes than to a person of comparable skills and intelligence who happens to be a member of the white race (*An American Dilemma*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1944, pp. 103-104, Gunnar Myrdal.) In other words, the black brain surgeon is more like the black sharecropper than

he is the white brain surgeon, who may be his associate in medical practice!

Black racism has also taken its toll on Americans in recent days. The same ideas we have just mentioned are turned in the opposite direction, some strange religious ideas are added, and the white man becomes a "devil" who has a unique kinship to "monkeys, apes and swine." (p. 103, Elijah Muhammad, *Message to the Blackman in America*. Chicago: Muhammad Mosque of Islam No. 3, 1965.) Therefore, total separation from the white man must be strictly observed if the black man is to know his full strength and superiority, this irrational form of racism demands.

RACISM AND CHRISTIANITY

I have detailed these idolatrous tenets because racism threatens the very heart of Christianity, strikes at the root of all Biblical truth, and directly violates Christian faith.

Racism's challenge to Christianity is more than a theoretical, "word battle." Desperate men have committed unimaginable atrocities in the name of a superior race. Do you remember who said these words: "Everything we admire on this earth today--science and art, technology and inventions--is only the creative product of a few peoples and originally perhaps of *one* race. On them depends the existence of this whole culture. If they perish, the beauty of this earth will sink into the grave with them." So wrote Adolf Hitler in *Mein Kampf* (p. 288, Translation by Ralph Manheim. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1943.) "For the formation of higher cultures," Hitler explained, "the existence of lower human types was one of the most essential preconditions, since they alone were able to compensate for the lack of technical aids without which a higher development is not conceivable. It is certain that the first culture of humanity was based less on the tamed animal than on the use of lower human beings." (p. 295, *Ibid.*) Hitler's justification of Nazi pretensions to Aryan superiority centered in the twin observations that "every animal mates only with a member of the same species" (p. 284, *Ibid.*) And the mixing of the "bloods" of two human races will always bring about the loss of the superior race's greatness (pp. 286, 296-297.)

If you find these words strangely familiar, don't simply think of Hitler's radio broadcasts. You may have heard these same false ideas across the backyard fence, in church study groups, at the shop during coffee break or in the offices of some educational, political, business, and labor leaders I know.

There are at least ten reasons why racism is idolatry and stands under the judgment of God and the Bible. Tenets of racism, whether white or black racism, conflict with the teachings of the God of the Bible. Listen, think, and make your choice.

RACISM AND GOD

Our first group of reasons why racism is false and must be rejected center in the proper understanding of God (Matthew 22:37).

Observation number one: Racism attacks the wisdom and goodness of God, the Father. "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." We read in the very first chapter of the Bible (Genesis 1:27). The white racist says that Caucasians are God's favored people. The black racist, in reaction, or perhaps, in self-defense, invents his own myths of God's favoritism toward black skin. Both are wrong! Every man, regardless of coloration and condition bears God's "image."

The Bible also describes the human family's original sin, the fall of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-8). Through their transgression, the Apostle Paul explains, sin entered into the world until this day. Christ, however, brought God's solution to this age-old human problem. As there was one Adam through whom sin invaded the human family, so through the second Adam, Jesus Christ, the final solution for sin occurred (Romans 5:12-21.) Racism calls for "a second Fall" of certain groups of races of men by which they become inferior men. This violates the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Observation number two: Racism opposes God, the Son. Jesus Christ is our hope, He is our answer (Titus 2:14). In Him "we have our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7). All forms of racism are built on the alleged "superior" blood the dominate group or race rather than on the "blood of Jesus Christ" which gives all men their hope of God's life and forgiveness (Hebrews 9:13-15).

Observation number three: Racism denies God, the Holy Spirit. The Racist makes all his value judgments on a fleshly, physical basis. God, however, "seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looketh on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7). With the Apostle Paul, the Christian says to the racist: "Wherefore we henceforth know no man after the flesh: . . ." (II Corinthians 5:10).

RACISM AND NEIGHBORS

As surely as racism openly flaunts God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, so this idolatry also affects and corrupts our relationship with others. Instead of "loving our neighbors", racism invariably promotes human pride, arrogance, and the disruption of any meaningful communication and association with those who differ with us.

Observation number four: Racism attacks the Church of Jesus Christ. Racist doctrines demand that varying ethnic groups remain separated from one another in every important area of life. But the Church that is “a habitation of God in the Spirit,” includes all kinds of men, both Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:11-22). In Jesus Christ and His Church all kinds of men find this kind of unity: “Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bondman, freeman: but Christ is all, and in all” (Colossians 3:11). Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet, said that God’s House, the Church, would know the membership of “all nations” and “Many people” (Isaiah 2:2-3). This truth racism denies.

On the very first day of the Church’s existence, men from all over the world, out of varying social, national, and cultural backgrounds, came into the Church (Acts 2:5-11). And later when the Apostle Peter practiced social discrimination within the Church, the Apostle Paul “resisted him to the face, because he stood condemned” (Galatians 2:11). What if every Christian in America this week confronted racism in the same spirit and with the same earnestness as did Paul?

Observation number five: Racism often misdirects Christians who are under the orders of Jesus Christ to “go into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15). Every committed disciple of Jesus knows the privilege of bearing testimony to the Gospel’s power to save (Romans 1:6). Racism would modify Christ’s words to mean, “Go ye therefore and teach your own kind,” or even worse, “Go ye therefore and teach all nations, making sure to keep them in their place” (Matthew 28:19-20). I can painfully testify that as Christians duped by racism, bowing before the false god of racism instead of Jehovah God, we set out to evangelize Africa while segregating our own churches in America.

Observation number six: Racism refuses to accept the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all areas of human thought and conduct. “The God who made the world and all things therein” is “the Lord of heaven and earth,” Paul declared to the philosophers of Athens (Acts 17:24).

What this says is that the Christian doesn’t support “white-only” or “black-only” enterprises six days each week and then faithfully worship God on Sunday. The Christian carries the burden of man’s divine nature, the unity of the human family as created by God, with him wherever he goes, into all kinds of relationships--socially, personally, economically, spiritually. The Christian, the one whose life is under the Lordly direction of Jesus Christ, can not talk about “loving his neighbor” on Sunday and then keep from being a neighbor to all men the rest of the week. Since God is no respecter of persons, the believer in God can not respect persons for their race (Acts 10:43). “But I’m not a respecter of persons,” you say. Then what

would be your attitude toward the first white on your block who sold his house to a Negro family? Would you stay? Would you sell? What would you vote for, if your church decided to leave such a neighborhood? The courageous Christian will continue to live in a racially changing neighborhood demonstrating God’s reconciling gospel to his white and black neighbors.

Observation number seven: Racism depends on the idolatry of group-preservation and the animal principle of survival of the fittest. One of the world’s greatest racists said: “Those who want to live, let them fight, and those who do not want to fight in this world of eternal struggle do not deserve to live.” (p. 189, Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1943.) Racism demands the preservation of blood purity at any cost. This is done only by physically subjugating the weaker races with allegedly inferior blood. Is it necessary to contrast this attitude with that Jesus taught regarding our concern for others: “Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you” (Matthew 5:43-44)? The Apostle Paul instructed Christians: “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21).

RACISM AND SELF

Our first three observations exposed racism’s attacks on God. We also have just looked at three ways racism distorts our relationship with others. Racism further threatens man’s understanding of himself. Let’s notice the following observations:

Observation number eight: Racism destroys a proper Biblical view of one’s self. The healthy respect for one’s self fostered by the Biblical doctrine of creation and human nature is lost in the racist’s creed. Jesus said that He came that all men, not a racially distinct group but all men, might “Have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). God so loved the world (all men) that He “gave his only begotten Son” to die for our sins (John 3:16). Christianity is individual. Racism is collective. Racism says the individual must be sacrificed for the evolutionary development of the master race.

Observation number nine: Racism destroys the universal character of Christianity. The Old Testament prophets pointed to the reign of God over all men (Isaiah 2:2-3; 42:1-4; Jeremiah 31:31-33). Paul triumphantly concluded; “We are all one man in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:27). Racism is attractive to those who prefer a group, herd-like, collectivist consciousness that breeds hate and violence rather than the stability and peace that comes with God’s personal acceptance of them. But for the individual who knows that he or she has been made “new” in the blood of Christ (II Corinthians 5:17-21), racism is a vile repudiation of every thing human and divine.

Observation number ten: Racism's future depends on my attitudes and yours. Will you oppose racism in a loving, courageous manner? One thing is certain: A day of judgment has dawned on America as a nation, and a day of judgment is coming to every man, when Christ returns to execute God's discernment of the contributions you and I have made to humanity (II Corinthians 5:10).

Traditional Christianity has failed to answer the challenge of racism. It is continually charged from all quarters: "The eleven o'clock hour on Sunday morning is the most segregated hour of the week." Modern-day churches are so encrusted with traditions of men and so reflective of today's culture that Christ's convicting message of truth and love goes unheard. Jesus charged the religious people of His day with "lip worship" instead of "heart worship." You teach for the truth "the precepts of men," He told the Pharisees (Matthew 15:7-9). Church members likewise are so overwhelmed by the idolatry of racism that one can see no discernible difference between the prejudices and hatreds of those in and out of the church.

Where racism flourishes Christianity dies. And where Christ rules the hearts and lives of men racism is destroyed. But the Christianity that destroys racism will not be the weak, watered-down, reshaped caricature of Christianity that flourishes today. Early Christian living within the Church's first hundred years, fought racism in and out of the Church. Peter confessed his racism and repented of it (Acts 10:34-37). Paul allowed no racial barriers to prevent him from preaching Christ to all men (I Corinthians 9:19-22). Early congregations had all kinds of people, from all walks, conditions, and races, within them (Acts 6:1-6; Colossians 3:11; Romans 16:1-15).

The Christian believes that Jesus Christ is the solution to man's sin and hatred (Ephesians 2:11-22). The Christian

responds to the Lordship of Jesus by consciously allowing the truth of Christ to be his standard for life (Romans 10:9-10; 14:7-9). The Christian is that person who has repented of his worship of all idols (Romans 6:12-14). The Christian is a faithful, obedient follower of Jesus Christ, who in his baptismal union with Christ has received God's forgiveness, life, and power (Romans 6:1-7; Acts 2:38; I John 4:11-12; Acts 5:32).

This kind of person, committed to the Christian faith as taught and lived in the New Testament, will balance the scales in the mighty struggle between the idol of racism and the God of all men.

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