

Date written: August 31, 1945

Scripture: I John 5:1-5

Text: I John 5:4

Theme: The victory that overcometh the world.

Proposition: The victory that overcometh the world is faith in Jesus Christ.

Sources:

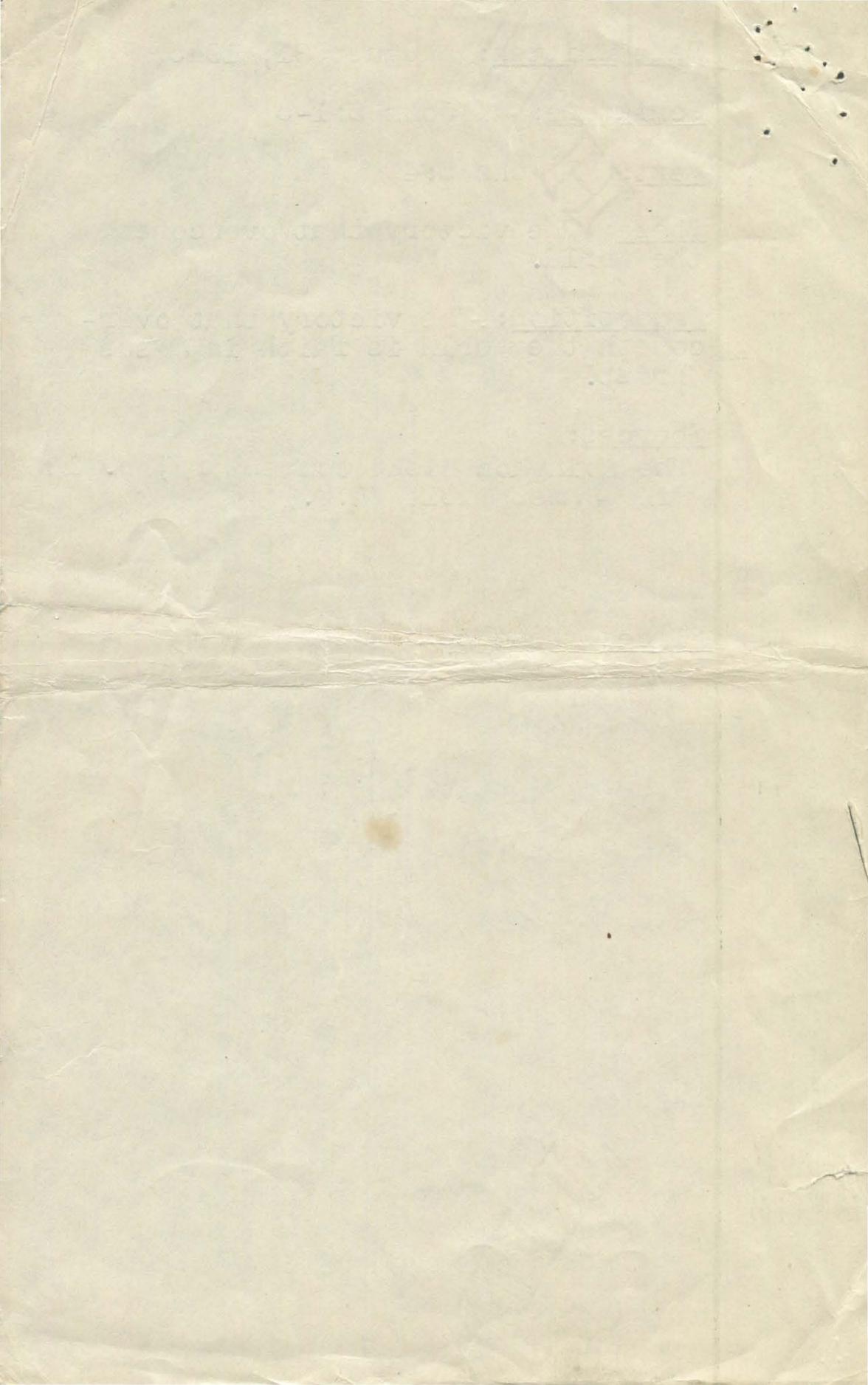
The Abingdon Bible Commentary, p. 1352
King James Bible (A.V.)

Places Preached:

Leftwich } 9-2-45
Independence }
Huntington, Ark 12-28-47
Evanston, Wyo. 9-11-50

I

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Scripture: I John 5:1-5.

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

By this we know that we love the children of God, ~~and~~ when we love God and keep his commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

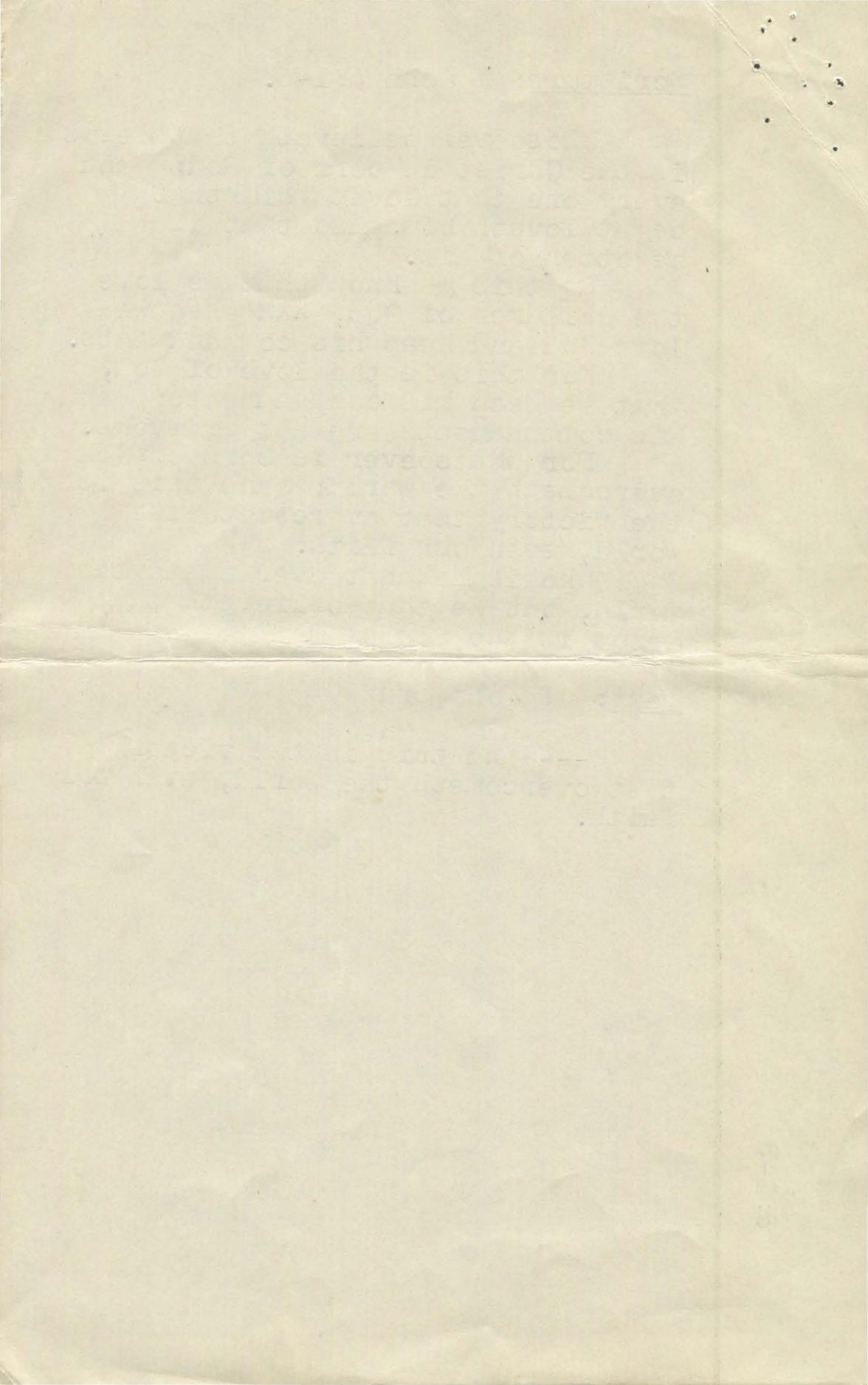
~~For~~ whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Text: I John 5:4

--- and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

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Introduction:

1. The writer of this book, I John, is generally thought to be a man who had close contact and personal knowledge of Jesus' earthly life.

2. As such, it is very significant the he finds the beginning and end of all religious truth in Jesus. He taught and wrote from personal experience with Jesus.

a. In buying anything, it is wise human nature to demand "what has been the experience of those who have used this or similar things?"

b. Even so, the results of the experience of Christ produce unshakable conviction of his power over all the exigencies of life.

c. This is the one thing that John puts forth in the Book of I John: his experience has shown that faith in Christ brings the full life.

(1) "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you."

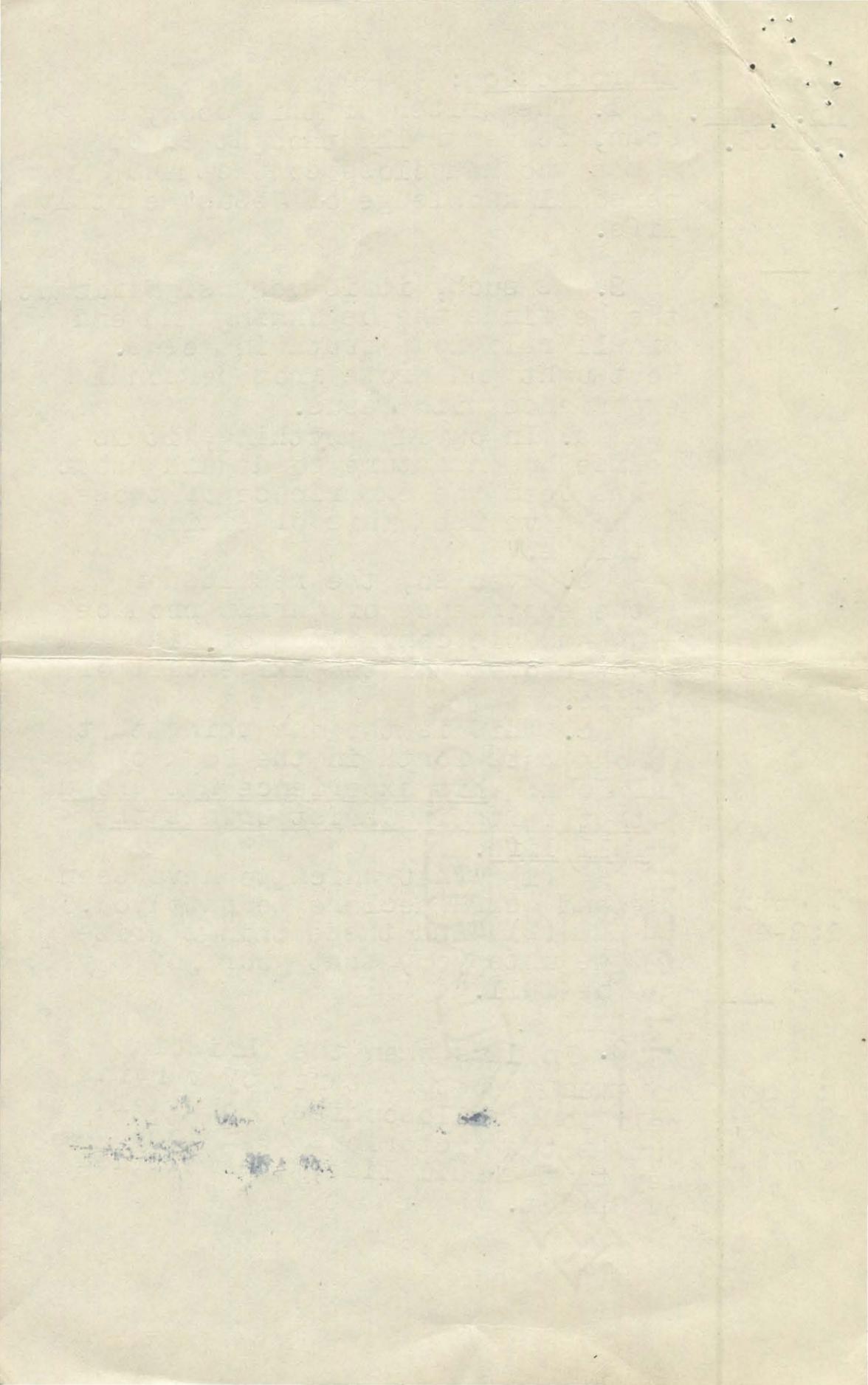
(2) "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."

3. In days when the Christian movement was threatened by varying religious philosophies, John held out as the victorious religion, the key to the full life, the religion of Christ.

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4. In the present day, when we are celebrating a great military victory, John holds out to us the assurance -- and the warning -- that there is only one victory that can overcome the world.

5. That victory, in the words of the writer of I John, is this: "And ~~this is~~ ^{the} victory ~~that~~ ^{eth} ~~the~~ ^{over} ~~cometh~~ ^{the} world, ~~even~~ ^{our} faith."

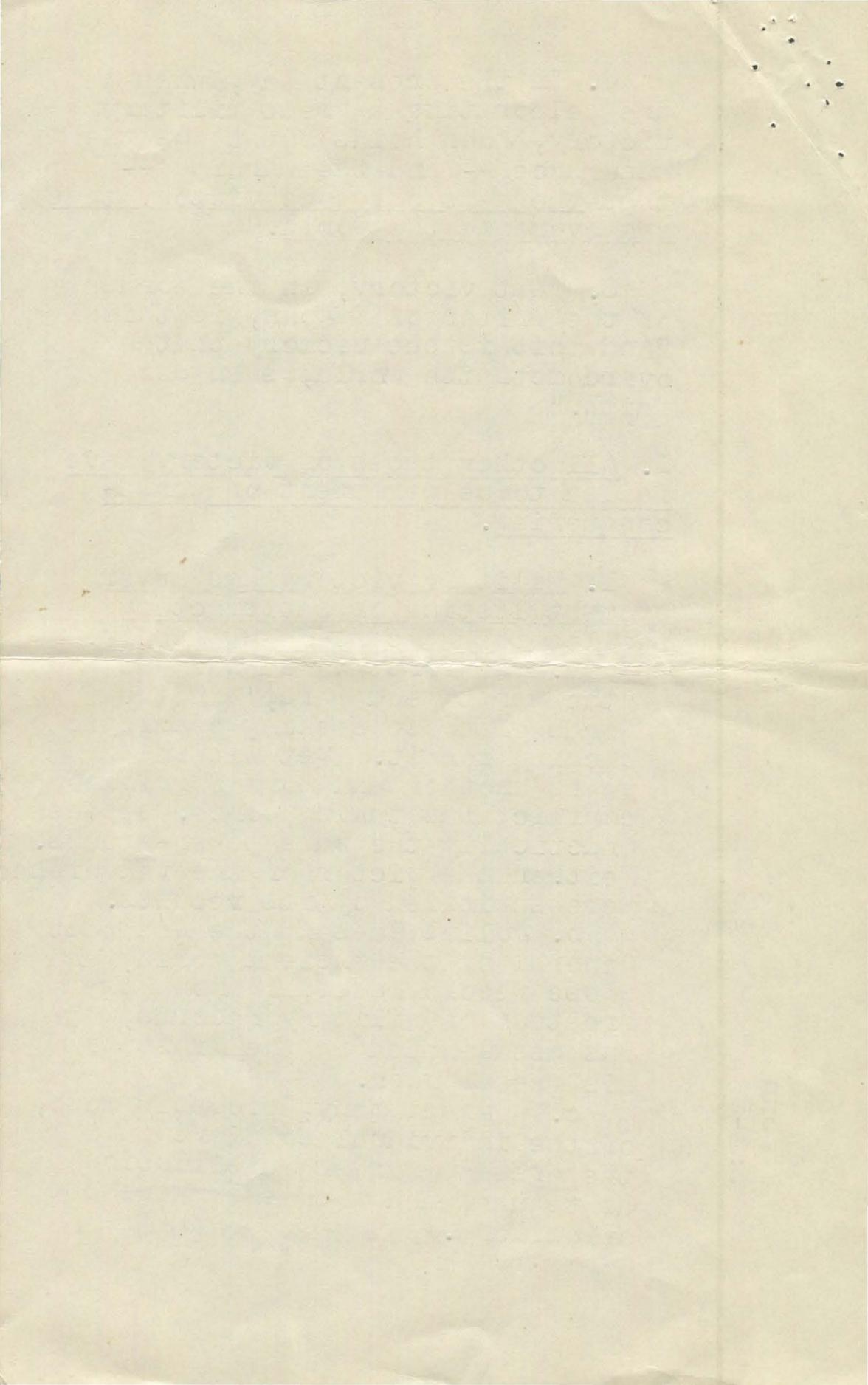
I. All other types of victory have failed to be permanent or world-conquering.

1. Military victory has never brought lasting or satisfactory results to any concerned with it.

a. The first World War was "the war to end wars," in the words of those seeking patriotic backing for it. Yet within 30 years another and more horrible conflict was taking place, between practically the same power-groups. Neither the victor or the vanquished were satisfied by its results.

b. Julius Caesar, the greatest general of the ancient world, and whose record is still among the greatest of military records, was assassinated in the midst of his great power.

c. A great many, probably most, of the individual soldiers in the ~~present~~ ^{past} war ~~were~~ ^{are} disillusioned as to war, and wish ~~they~~ ^{got} were out of uniform ~~as soon as possible.~~



2. Political victory has never brought lastingly satisfactory results.

a. The victories of Fascism, Nazism, Communism, New Dealism, Socialism, in their respective national strongholds, have failed to attribute much permanent improvement in reaching the ideal state: the state in which men have the maximum of freedom, the minimum of friction, and a sufficiency of material things.

b. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the most successful politician that this country has ever known, after his death is being shown in many ways to have been not the idealist that many people loved to think he was. Political skill and victory could not hide the man.

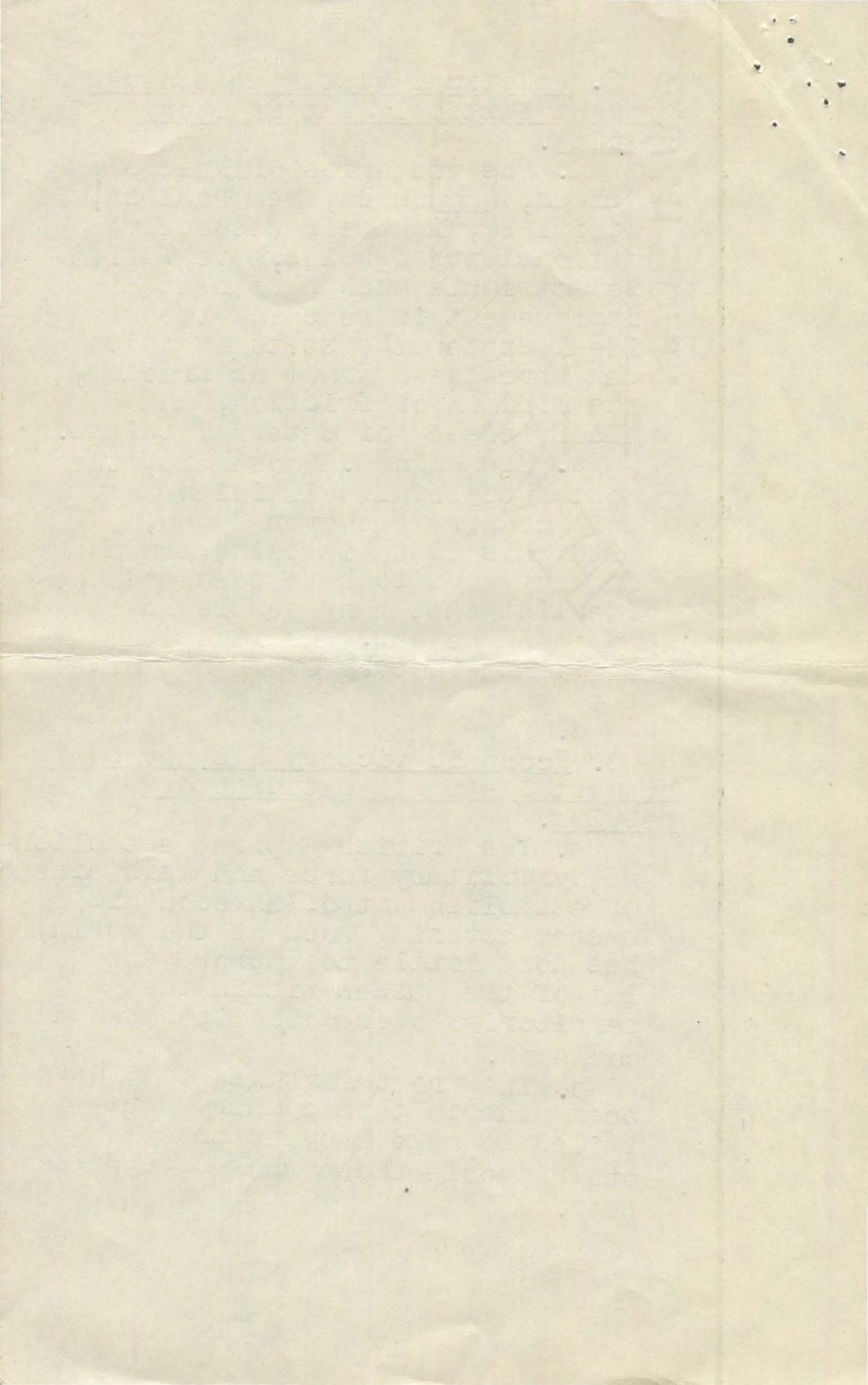
3. Economic victory has never brought lastingly satisfactory results.

a. The British Empire, established by military force and maintained by establishment of an economic system covering much of the world, has done little to improve the lot of the masses within the territories over which it has had dominion.

b. The great fortunes that have been made in this country have failed to make happier than other people those who possess them.

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4. Social victory has never brought lastingly satisfactory results.

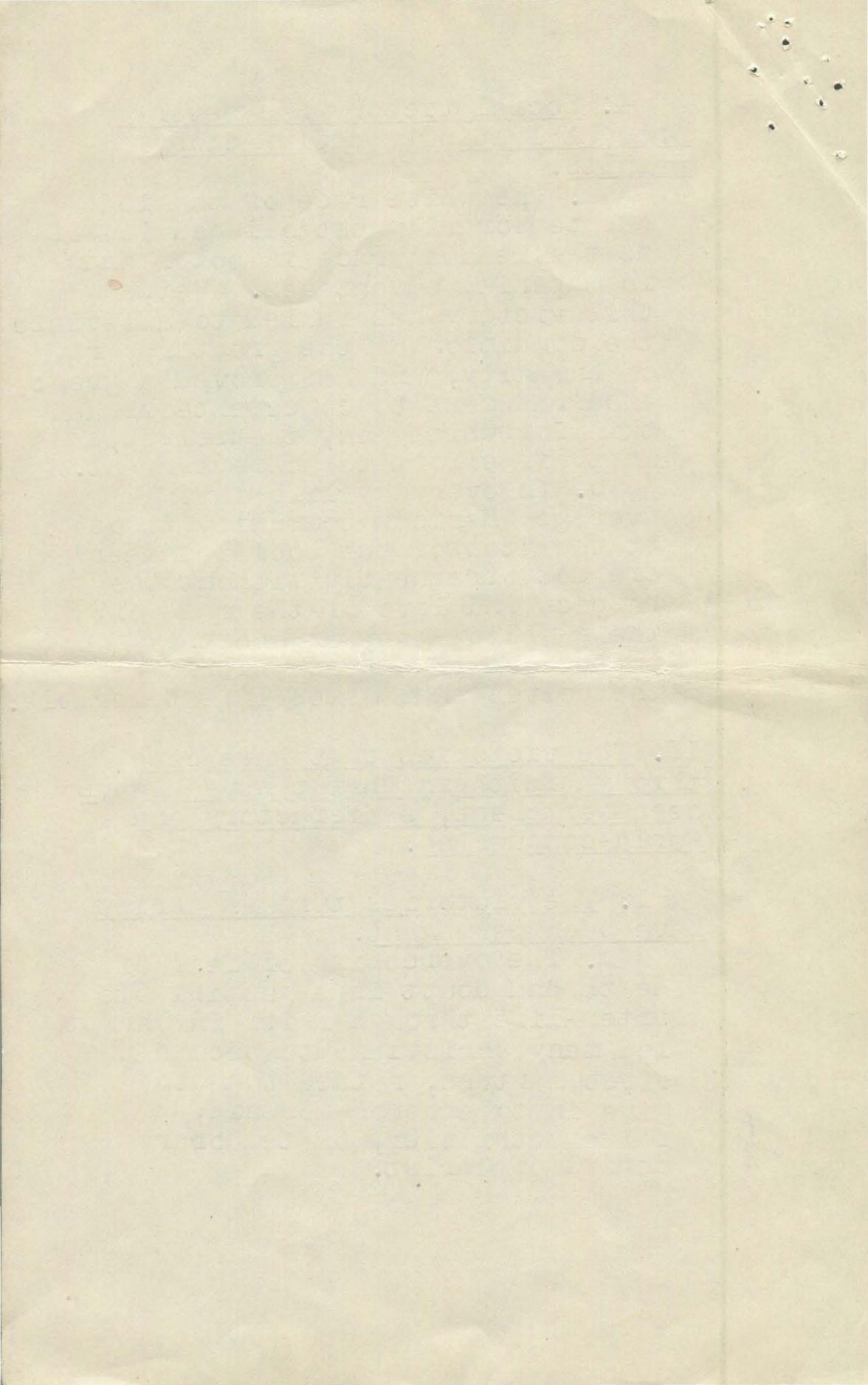
a. The white race of mankind has temporarily established itself as the leading race in power and in material advantages. Yet, this victory has failed to alleviate the condition of the greater part of humanity, and has proved a great embarrassment to conscientious and thinking white men, themselves, in their effort to achieve right.

b. In everyday life in the average American community, those at the "top of the social ladder" are most frequently without the respect and love of the mass of their fellow-men, or are they possessors of a peace withing themselves that makes life tolerable.

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II. The victories that have come through faith in Christ have always been permanent, satisfactory and world-conquering.

1. The victories through Christ have been permanent.

a. The overcoming of fear of death and doubt in a justifiable after-life through faith in Christ led many Christians to become the first martyrs, rather than to give in to emperor-worship, false patriotism, or temporary denial of Christ.



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b. The victory through faith in Christ that St. Francis of Assissi made over love of military life, love of money, and selfish ambition has resulted in his movement becoming one of the most respected in the Catholic or Protestant churches.

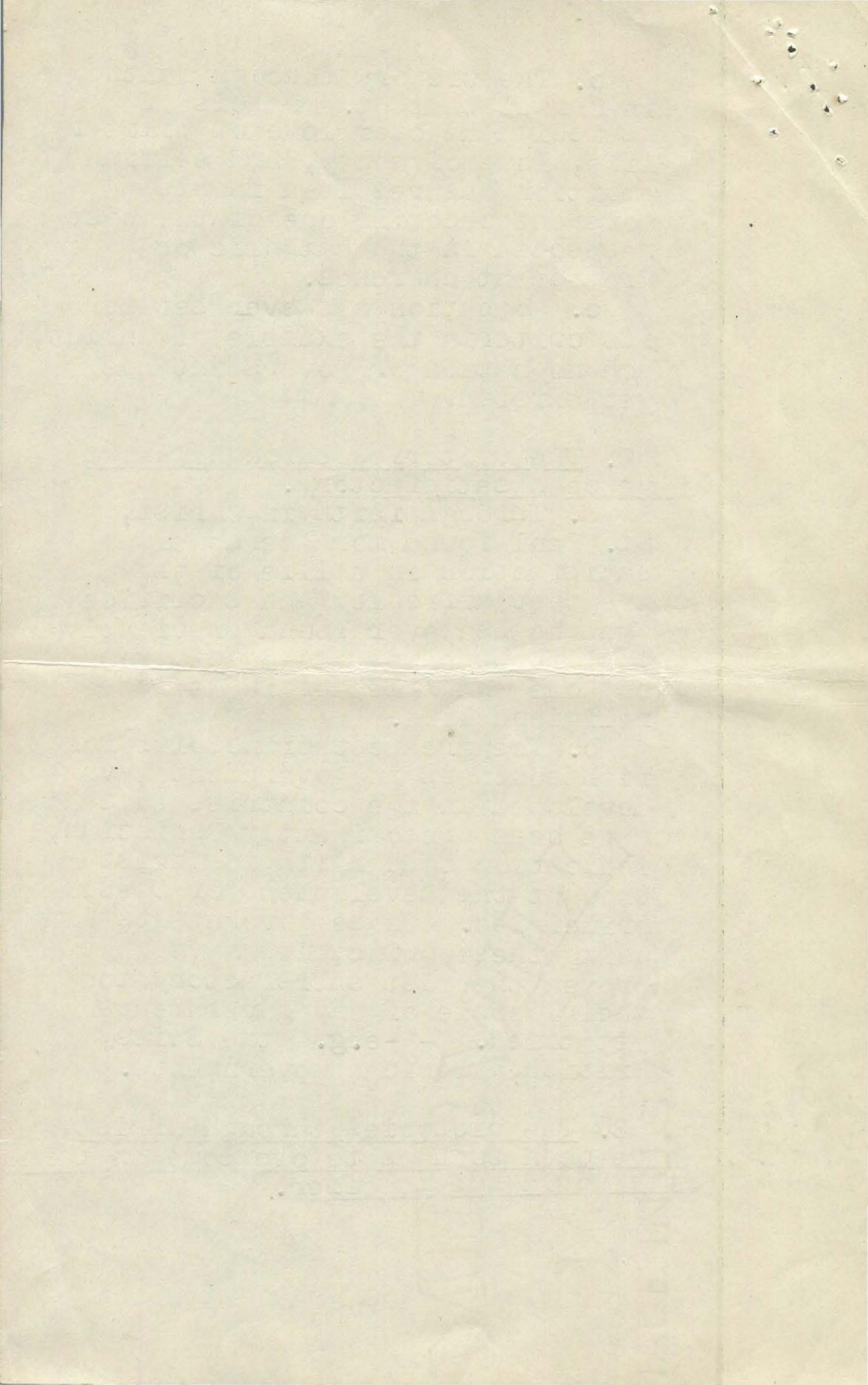
c. No nation has ever set as its criteria the example of Christ, and no nation or government has yet existed *any great length of time.*

2. The victories through Christ have been satisfactory.

a. Through faith in Christ, St. Paul found more personal satisfaction in a life of the greatest difficulty and sacrifice than he had ever found previously in life as a well-to-do citizen of Rome and a leader in Jewish religious life.

b. The greatest principles for righteousness in government have developed in the countries that have been predominantly Christian, indicating that faith in Christ brought the development of these principles. Those governments using these principles have proven the most satisfactory to their people of any governments yet tried. --eeg. the Swiss, British, American governments.

3. The victories through Christ have been such as to overcome anything the world has to offer.



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a. Erasmus, probably the greatest writer on the continent of Europe in the early part of the sixteenth century, believed that Christ's way was a peaceful way. He wrote many of his works on peace, therefore, and did not fail to censure many of the world's greatest leaders on their use of force. By refusing to give up the freedom of his pen, Erasmus lost many opportunities of advancement in both riches and in political and ecclesiastical achievement.

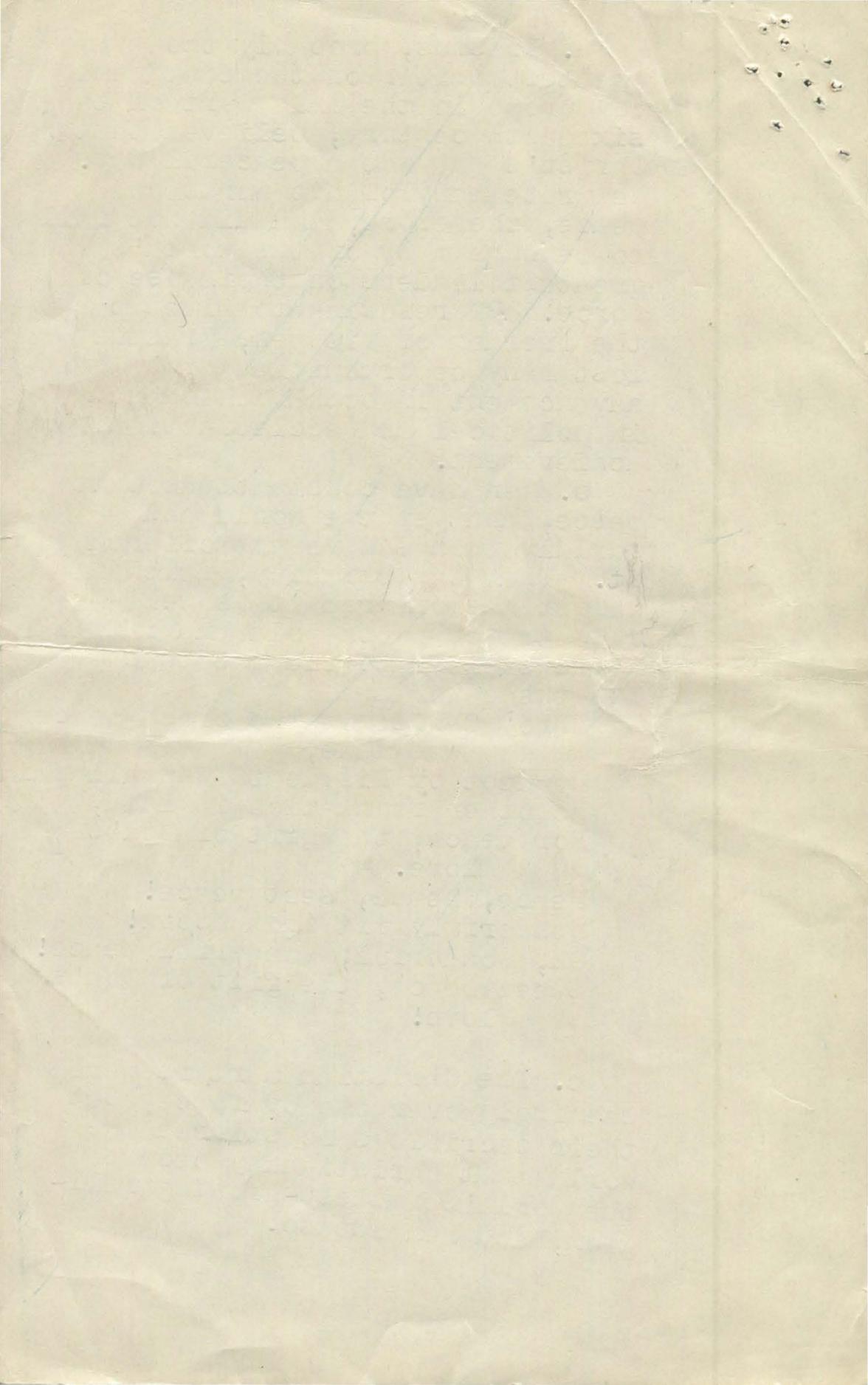
b. Men have constantly sought peace, and yet the world and worldly things have not offered it. That Christianity, faith in Christ has offered it is well-illustrated in the old and familiar hymns similar to the one that has these words:

Thro' Christ on the cross peace
was made,

My debt by His death was all paid
No other foundation is laid,
For peace, the gift of God's
love.

8
Peace, peace, sweet peace!
Wonderful gift from above!
Oh, wonderful, wonderful peace!
Sweet peace, the gift of God's
love!

c. The Christian martyrs were seemingly overcome by force, but their sacrifices so stirred the world that Christianity became the world's fastest-growing religion, and remains so.



Conclusion:

1. Military, political, economic and social victories have never been lastingly satisfactorily.

2. Victories that have come through faith in Christ~~x~~ have always proven permanent, satisfactory, and world-conquering.

3. According to human experience, as proclaimed by the writer of I John, the victory that overcometh the world is faith in Christ.

