Date written: Dec. 25, 1948

Theme: A full year.

Proposition: A full year is one of Christian living.

Sources: Revised Standard Version of the New Testament
RESPOND TO:
L. J. STEVENSON
DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE
HUNTINGTON, ARKANSAS

"CARILLONIC TOWER BELLS"
•
TOWER MUSIC SYSTEMS
•
AUTOMATIC ANGELUS
•
WESTMINSTER STRIKE
Introduction:

1. Scripture summary: The disciples had been preaching the gospel primarily to the Jews. At Antioch, some of the converts preached it to some of their gentile friends. The mother church, or leading group, in Jerusalem, heard of this, and sent Barnabas to Antioch to investigate. He was convinced, when he had been there, that the conversions were real and lasting, and that the work should continue, so he went and got Saul, and the two of them came to Antioch and stayed there for a year. At the end of a year, they had established the church that is more truly than any other the mother church of Christendom.

2. A year was enough for Saul and Barnabas to found the mother church, where the name Christian was first applied to the followers of Christ. That year was one of the most influential in history for the influence it had on the centuries since has been practically endless. From it came the sense of mission of the Christian church.

3. We are moved to consider what we have done during the year now ended, if we realize the tremendous task done in Antioch by Saul and Barnabas in but a year. Has this past year been a full year? Thinking like this brings up the question "what is a full year?" It is our purpose to consider that here.

I. A full year is one of apostolic fervor.

1. Meaning of apostolic fervor — an irresistible urge to tell others about one's belief and to try to convert them to it. Bubbling over with a message of good news which we just have to tell and get others to know.

2. That is the way the early Christians were: In the Book of Acts there are many instances of such fervor.

a. On the day of Pentecost the disciples were so filled with the holy spirit that they immediately
Schulmerich Electronics

INcORPORATED

SELLERSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

PHONE: SELLERSVILLE 2323

REPLY TO:
L. J. STEVENSON
District Representative
Huntington, Arkansas

"CARILLONIC TOWER BELLS"

TOWER MUSIC SYSTEMS

AUTOMATIC ANGELUS

WESTMINSTER STRIKE

Phone: 134-W
b. Following that experience, there is a record of Peter and John going to the temple, but at the gate meeting and healing a man who was lame. This act of mercy brought a curious crowd, and to them Peter addressed a speech telling them how the Jesus whom through ignorance they had crucified was the Christ whom the prophets foretold. The priests, according to the record, were annoyed at Peter's preaching, and had Peter and John arrested, but already "many of those who heard believed, and the number of the men came to about 5000."

c. The Book of Acts is a record of many such evidences of apostolic fervor. This fervor brought about the founding of the Christian Church.

3. Truly, those early apostles could look back on their year's work and find in it lasting accomplishments in the persons of the MX converted. Theirs were full years.

4. We may be fervent about various causes and yet when looking back find them rather empty. Such, for example, is fervency for a winning athletic team. For some time I went to a high school with one of the best football teams in the east. Later, I went to a university which at that time had one of the two top-rated teams in the country. I can remember my own "school spirit and loyalty," and how excited we'd get about the games. Yet, looking back, I can recall few of the opponents in the games and few of the results. The fervency was for little of lasting value.
Schulmerich Electronics
INTEGRATED
SELLERSVILLE • PENNSYLVANIA
PHONE • SELLERSVILLE 2323

REPLY TO:
L. J. STEVENSON
District Representative
HUNTINGTON, ARKANSAS

"CARILLONIC TOWER BELLS"

TOWER MUSIC SYSTEMS

AUTOMATIC ANGELUS

WESTMINSTER STRIKE

PHONE: 134-W
On the other hand, I remember vividly the atmosphere and feel still the influence of one week at a youth assembly when I was 15. I was fervent about that too, and yet it's purpose was more lasting: to put God more strongly into my heart. In that week I did come closer to God. It was perhaps the most full week of my life. From it came the knowledge of God that keeps me morally clean when temptations are many. From it comes the influence that eventually turned me to the ministry. Similar full and important events happen in the lives of many. Truly, a full year is one of apostolic fervor for the things of God; for in retrospect that is the one in which life has purpose.

III A full year is one of brotherly use of one another.

1. After Cain killed Abel, he met God, who asked him where Abel was. This was the occasion for Cain's famous question "Am I my brother's keeper?" Christ answered that question in the affirmative in his teachings. He taught that all people are equally children of God and brothers and sisters of each other. He taught our duty to these brothers and sisters in the parables of the prodigal son, the good Samaritan, and others. We are our brother's keeper. How much fuller life always seems when we take that truth seriously!

2. At Indian Mission hospital the doctor was called out to look at a very sick young man who had been found fallen on the steps of the hospital. One glance told the doctor the man had plague. The man's story was that he was the servant of some rich people in the village. When they took the inoculations, he did not get any. After dark, he fell ill and was told to get out. He had no place to go, and so came to the hospital because he had heard that there he would find mercy and receive medicine. He was placed in isolation and eventually recovered from the dread disease.

That the selfishness which often brings about acquisition of wealth does not give full life -- worth-while life -- is testified to by the much immorality, dissatisfaction, and frequent suicide
Schulmeirich Electronics
INeorporated
SELLERSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Reply To:
L. J. STEVENSON
District Representative
Huntington, Arkansas

"Carillonic Tower Bells"

Tower Music Systems

Automatic Angelus

Westminster Strike

Phone: 134-W

Phone: Sellersville 2323
among the wealthy. On the other hand, those who like the missionary doctor in this instance of the plague-stricken young Indian give themselves to brotherly treatment of others do find life with meaning and full. Many experiences besides this one could be given to illustrate this point.

III. A spirit of Christ that promotes men to call us Christian helps make a full year.

1. A person who died in a small community was spoken of by people of many different classes and groups. All of them said in effect, "If there ever was a Christian woman, she must have been the one." An old man in the same community knew practically everyone there, and was congenial to all. He, too, was generally called a Christian by his neighbor. Why were these people called Christian? Because they were humble in spirit, friendly to all, helpful wherever possible, moral and clean in conduct and word, and interested in the work of God through the Church and other organizations. Theirs was a Christian spirit.

2. For these people there was always a full schedule of things to do; yet so much did their Christ-like spirit pervade their presence that most people little realized just how full their lives were. Truly, the spirit of Christ within our souls brings about full life and full years.

Conclusion:

A full year may be thought of as one in which we have been filled with apostolic fervor for propagation of the gospel; in which we have used each other in brotherly fashion; and in which we have lived so much in the spirit of Christ that people call us Christian.

If the past year seems rather empty; if you have been busy in it, but cannot see from this viewpoint lasting values in it; then something is needed.

That something is a personal acquaintance with Jesus Christ. Only that can supply the understanding and motive for the 3 requisites to a full life at which we have looked here. Believe in Jesus, accept Him, get to know him; or come back to Him NOW
REPLY TO:
L. J. STEVENSON
District Representative
Huntington, Arkansas

"CARILLONIC TOWER BELLS"

TOWER MUSIC SYSTEMS

AUTOMATIC ANGELUS

WESTMINSTER STRIKE