

"IN THE NAME OF THE LORD"

Mar. 22, '87

FINALLY, LET US NOTE THAT THERE IS POWER IN RELIGIOUS FAITH.--

NO ONE DOES VERY MUCH UNTIL HE BELIEVES, AND NOTHING BECOMES IRRESISTIBLE UNTIL IT IS UNDERGIRDLED BY FAITH.

THE GREAT GENERATION ALWAYS BELIEVES, AND THE POOR GENERATION IS GOVERNED BY ITS DOUBTS. THE GREAT THING ABOUT AMERICA IN 1776 WAS A MIGHTY ACHIEVEMENT IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM AND EQUALITY. THE POOR THING ABOUT AMERICA IN 1987 IS ITS LACK OF FAITH IN ITS HERITAGE AND ITS LOSS OF HOPE IN ITS FUTURE.

FIND A MAN WHO HAS BEEN ORDAINED A SERVANT OF GOD AND DISCOVER THE DEPTH OF HIS LIFE AND THE POWER OF HIS WITNESS COMPARED WITH THE MAN WHO LIVES ONLY FOR HIMSELF. SO THE STORY OF DAVID AND GOLIATH IS REPEATED OVER MANY TIMES IN EACH GENERATION AND MEN WITH ONLY THE NATURAL ENDOWMENTS OF BIRTH, POWER, AND WEALTH FIND THEMSELVES NO MATCH FOR MEN WHO RISE UP IN THE NAME OF GOD.

FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS WE HAVE BEEN USING THE PHRASE, "IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST." IT IS IN THESE WORDS THAT WE FIND THE POWER OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, AND IN THAT CONFESSSION THERE IS THE STRENGTH OF EACH CHRISTIAN MAN. FOR AT LONG LAST GOD CAME TO US THROUGH OUR LORD AND BESTOWED UPON US THE NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME AND BEFORE WHOM THE DEVILS TREMBLE.

IT IS REPORTED THAT WHEN GERTRUDE STEIN WAS DYING IN PARIS, SOME OF HER FRIENDS STOOD ABOUT HER BED. SHE OPENED HER EYES AND ASKED, "WHAT IS THE ANSWER?" THERE WAS NO REPLY BECAUSE THEY DID NOT KNOW THE ANSWER ANY MORE THAN SHE DID. "WELL, THEN," SHE ASKED, "WHAT IS THE QUESTION?" THOSE WERE HER LAST WORDS. I DO NOT KNOW MANY ANSWERS ANY MORE THAN YOU DO, BUT I AM SURE I KNOW THE QUESTION: IN WHOSE NAME DO WE LIVE? ONCE WE HAVE FOUND THE RIGHT QUESTION, CHRISTIANS ALSO KNOW THE ANSWER. THERE IS A NAME THAT IS POWER AND VICTORY AND JOY. IT IS JESUS CHRIST.