

James T. Jeremiah
Word and Testimony
1960

Transcript

Choir:
(Singing).

James T. Jeremiah:

We welcome you to the campus of Cedarville, a Christian college located in Southwestern Ohio, where young people receive a Bible centered education in the liberal arts. Our college was founded in 1887 and stands for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. We invite you to listen to the message and music presented by our students and then a brief personal word from the President. Here's a verse of scripture which I'm sure will be of encouragement to Christian people who put their faith in the word of God. It's the testimony of the Old Testament prophet who wrote, "Thy words were found and I did eat them. And thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart for I am called by thy name O Lord God of hosts." The Melody-Aires Trio sings for us now, My Jesus, I Love Thee.

Melody-Aires Trio:
(Singing)

James T. Jeremiah:

Our program is called Word and Testimony. The reason we call our program this is because of the motto of our college for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. In our service occasionally we try to present a message from the word of God of course in every program and then we try to give a word from some individual who has experienced salvation through Christ and is glad to testify for him. We are using students and faculty members in our program from time to time. For the next few weeks now we will be interviewing new faculty members and today we have with us Dr. Clifford Johnson who is serving on the campus now as our Registrar. Dr. Johnson came to us from the State of Washington. He moved a long ways away from home in order to establish a new home and work at Cedarville. Dr. Johnson we're delighted to have you here on the campus and also to have you here in the program today. First of all we would like to hear a word from you as to your experience with Christ. I think our folks would be interested in that.

Dr. Clifford Johnson:

Thank you very much President Jeremiah. The Lord is real to me. I accepted him as the sacrifice for my sins when I was but a youngster and I've had a glorious, wonderful time ever since. I'm grateful to him for the way he's kept me, blessed me and led me and occasionally chastised me but it's been a wonderful experience to be close to Christ my Savior.

James T. Jeremiah:

Amen. Well you have spent a good number of years since your conversion serving the Lord in local Baptist churches. And in addition to that of course you have spent a good number of years receiving training for the profession in which you find yourself in the field of education. There are many opportunities in education today and we're glad that you have felt led to come to Cedarville. I think it would be also interesting to our listeners to know why you are here.

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Dr. Clifford Johnson:

I believe the most important reason would be that I felt the call of the Lord to this college. My whole life seems to have been led toward college teaching in one area or another and as my life developed and I became a public school teacher it seemed that I should go on and get graduate training then in education. And so this is my major and we're looking forward very, very much to serving here at Cedarville. Ultimately perhaps in the area of education.

James T. Jeremiah:

You arrived at the campus at a very busy time when we are just registering our students and you probably haven't had an opportunity to study the possibilities for the future too much but just as you have observed the college, what do you think the future holds for Cedarville?

Dr. Clifford Johnson:

Well, I first don't believe I really would have come unless I thought there would have been a terrific future here. I see a future of rather rapid growth because of the need for liberal arts colleges with a really concerned and dedicated Christian emphasis.

James T. Jeremiah:

We're glad that you have this vision because we feel too that there are many young people in our churches across the land who are looking to our college and others like it as a place of training. And we're glad too that there are people well-trained as yourself or interested in this ministry of training, teaching young people and helping them to serve the Lord. We're glad to have you with us today and we trust that your stay at Cedarville will be a very profitable and enjoyable one and we really believe and pray that this will be your life work for Christ. We thank God for your ministry here already. Now listen to the chapel choir as they sing for us the 100th Psalm.

Chapel Choir:

(Singing)

James T. Jeremiah:

The last verse of the 23rd Psalm reads as follows, "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me," said the Psalmist. This reminds us as someone has said of the watchdogs of the shepherd. The shepherd would lead his flock and the sheep dogs would follow and see that the sheep were kept in line. If a sheep would lag or stray a dog would bark and thus keep him with the flock. Goodness and mercy then are the watchdogs of the Lord. In Romans 2:4 we read, "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." Lamentations 3:22 of the Lord's mercies, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed." It is a good thing to know that God's mercy and God's goodness is ever manifest to care for the people of the Lord who are the sheep of the Lord.

James T. Jeremiah:

A yacht was cruising one day long ago among the Isles of Scotland when a gale caught the frail craft off a perilous sea shore. The skipper made for harbor leagues away. Through the darkness the yacht went

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plunging on her course amid the wild welter of wind and wave. At length she swung into smooth water and they'd dropped anchor and turning into their berths went peacefully to sleep. In the morning the owner of the yacht came on deck and surveyed the scene. He saw a little haven girt about by dark purple mountains. Looking toward the entrance he saw a narrow channel with sharp rocks jutting here and there all awash with boiling surf. To think of passing that way, just think of going through that place that night in the dark. The least swerving of the tiller and those jagged teeth would catch the frail bark and grind it to splinters and every life would perish. Turning to the old skipper he exclaimed, "Did we, did we pass there in the darkness?"

James T. Jeremiah:

This my friend is a parable of life. We know something of the goodness and mercy which have followed us all our days but we shall never realize fully the debt we owe our unseen guide until we are safely within the harbor. And so the Psalmist speaks about goodness and mercy. I'm sure it's quite true that none of us really appreciate the goodness of God as we ought. The goodness of God leadeth us to repentance. How good he is to us. Many things he does, our heavenly father does for us we do not even understand and I'm sure appreciate. And many of the things that happen in our lives we sometimes think are for our trouble and sorrow and heartache and really God has intended them for good if we can see his hand in it all. He does not make any mistakes.

James T. Jeremiah:

And if some of you are going through trials today, remember this, God is too loving to be unkind. He will be gracious. He will be good and gracious to you. Father in heaven bless thy word to our hearts today. Help us to understand something of what thy good hand means upon us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Chapel Choir:

(singing)