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## **The Compelling Power of the Christ Like Life [Notes]**

Earl Clement Davis

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The Compelling Power of  
The Christian Life

It seems to be a sort of popular superstition that the living of such a life or way be called a Christ-like life, relegates one to a world of uninteresting things - that all the fun of life, all its romance, its compelling values, its absorbing fascinations are to be found in what commonly spoken of as the worldly life, or the life of pleasure, - that the life of the sinner, so called is the life of fun, and joy, = But on the other hand

The life of the religious person is  
one devoid of romance, of  
compelling values. - it is negotiated.

There are certain valid grounds  
for this popular delusion. - but  
delusion it is.

The reasons why this popular  
superstition exists are not  
far to seek. There is also a  
popular superstition that  
religion is a sort of  
mechanical contrivance by which  
we may escape the consequences  
of our delicious sins, and continue  
to enjoy thought eternally a  
sort of ~~other~~ celestial pleasure



Life, = This popular conception of religion  
is the result of false teaching in the  
churches,

Religion is the search for the  
abiding, - with which values of  
life, the quest for its greatest  
opportunities. →

I have referred to the religious life  
in terms of the Christ-like life.

What is it?

Meaning = of Christ the Word.

Why was Jesus so-called? ?

What was his life.

What is it in terms of some of its  
striking illustrations

In affairs = Mr. H. Baldwin.

Science. =

Letters.

Stoicism.

Religion. =

Use common place  
illustrations.



## Notes.

### The Compelling Power of the Christ-like Life.

According to John, Jesus said of his mission that he came that people might have life, and life was abundant. Over against this declaration, there appears the popular superstition that anyone who proposes to lead a Christ-like life, is taking upon himself the obligation to empty his life of all that is interesting, and joyful. In other words there is a popular superstition to the effect that after all, the real pleasure, the real romance, the real fun of life is not to be found in living what may be called a Christ-like life, but rather is to be found in living

what is commonly called the life of  
pleasure. To illustrate, according  
to this popular superstition, the really  
happy, enjoyable life is to be found in  
following the desires and passions  
of life, so called. - To go on a good  
time, is to cast aside all restraints  
and conventions, and to follow  
the life of worldly pleasure. - To  
be lost in the mazes of the  
underworld, - In short the life  
of lust, and sensation is the  
life where the greatest pleasure,  
the greatest satisfactions, the  
greatest joy is to be found. To  
that kind of a life we would  
all give ourselves were it not  
for the fact that we have  
been told by the Church that while



such a life may be pleasing to us, yet in the sight of God such a life is a life of sin, not pleasurable to God, and that God will punish us if we follow that kind of a life.

Therefore, continues this popular superstition, in order to escape the displeasure of God, we become Christians, - deprive ourselves of all the pleasures that we really do enjoy because we fear some kind of punishment from God. and hope that some how God will reward us for living a sad, gloomy, empty life here, by giving us a life



## The Compelling Power of a Christ-Like Life.

As we sit here this morning there is travelling across the Atlantic a ship-load of human deviants from all grades of American Society, who have been gathered from the mudswamp of Paris, and other European cities, there such women, some from homes of culture and refinement, - educated and well served for. Some reckless travellers; others perhaps simply the victims of misfortune. What is their story. Drawn to Europe by either the glamour of the war, or the call of service of one kind or another, they have been travelling the broad and gaudy highway of a life of unbridled pleasure seeking, - The result is irremediable. Helpless, friendless, characterless, - reduced at to the last extremity, living amid the ruin of human kind, - they have been befriended by societies organized to take care of them. Their passage across is paid, their food is provided; and arrangements of been made with friendly

societies had to care for them after they have landed in New York.

You find can see the <sup>news of the</sup> same sort of people in almost every newspaper that you read. Here and there amid the daily news of the life, there leaps to the front some ~~big~~ tragic story of a disillusioned life. But the smallest fraction of all ever gets into the daily news.

We find them, young and old, in all the walks of life, in churches and out.

Who are they? What are they?

They are those people who for one reason or another take it for granted that a life of self indulgence, of selfish seeking after



## The Compelling Power of the Christ-Like Life.

Out of the extra-ordinary developments of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which has been called the lofty and rebellious century, there are slowly emerging two great basic faiths.



The Confessing Power of the Christ-Liturgy,

Sinner, saint, and hypocrite, are three words which are commonly used. In the rough we may describe a sinner as one whose main interests are concerned with what he can get out of life. If the sinner happens to be of meek ferocity,

1  
The Compelling Power of  
The Christ-like life

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The reasons why this popular  
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dejects from all grades of American Society,  
who have been gathered from the mudwall  
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and women, some from homes of culture and  
refinement, - educated and well served for.  
Some reckless travellers; others perhaps simply  
the victims of misfortune. What is their story.  
Drawn to Europe by either the glamour of  
the war, or the call of service of one kind  
or another, they have been travelling the broad  
and gaudy highway of a life of unbridled  
pleasure seeking, - The result is inevitable.  
Helpless, friendless, characterless, - reduced  
at to the last extremity, living amid  
the ruin of human kind, - they have been  
befriended by societies organized to take  
care of them. Their passage across is  
paid, their food is provided; and arrange-  
ments of been made with friendly



## Notices.

### The Compelling Power of the Christ-like Life.

According to John, Jesus said of his mission that he came that people might have life, and life was abundant. Over against this declaration, there appears the popular superstition that anyone who proposes to lead a Christ-like life, is taking upon himself the obligation to empty his life of all that is interesting, and joyful. In other words there is a popular superstition to the effect that after all, the real pleasure, the real romance, the real fun of life is not to be found in living what may be called a Christ-like life, but rather is to be found in living

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of life, so-called. - To go on a good  
time, is to cast aside all restraints  
and conventions, and to follow  
the life of worldly pleasure. - To  
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that kind of a life we would  
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such a life may be pleasing to us, yet in the sight of God such a life is a life of sin, not pleasurable to God, and that God will punish us if we follow that kind of a life.

Therefore, continues this popular superstition, in order to escape the displeasure of God, we become Christians, - deprive ourselves of all the pleasures that we really do enjoy because we fear some kind of punishment from God. and hope that some how God will reward us for living a sad, gloomy, empty life here, by giving us a life

whether has to care for them after they have landed in New York.

You just can see the <sup>news of the</sup> same sort of people in almost every newspaper that you read. Here and there amid the daily news of the life, there leaps to the front some ~~big~~ tragic story of a disillusioned life. But the smallest fraction of all ever gets into the daily news.

We find them, young and old, in all the walks of life, in churches and out.

Who are they? What are they?

They are those people who for one reason or another take it for granted that a life of self-indulgence, of selfish seeking after



## The Compelling Power of the Christ-Like Life.

Out of the extra-ordinary developments of that 19<sup>th</sup> century, which has been called the lofty and rebellious century, there are slowly emerging two great basic faiths.

## The Confessing Power of the Christ-Like Life.

Sinner, saint, and hypocrite, are three words which are commonly used. In the rough we may describe a sinner as one whose main interests are concerned with what he can get out of life. If the sinner happens to be of meekness and gentleness.



The Compelling Power of the Christ Like Life [Version 1]<sup>1</sup>

Earl Clement Davis

No Date<sup>2</sup>

There seems to be a sort of popular superstition that the living of such a life as may be called a Christ-like life, relegates one to a world of uninteresting things, that all the fun of life, all its romance, its compelling values, its absorbing passions are to be found in what [is] commonly spoken of as the worldly life, or the life of pleasure, that the life of the sinner, so-called, is the life of fun, and joy. But on the other hand the life of the religious person is one devoid of romance, of compelling values. It is negative.

There are certain valid {???) from this popular delusion, but delusion it is.

The reasons why this popular superstition exists are not far to see. There is also a popular superstition that religion is a sort of mechanical contrivance by which we may escape the consequences of our delicious sins, and continue to enjoy throughout eternity a sort of celestial pleasure life. This popular conception of religion is the result of false teaching in the churches.

Religion is the search for the abiding worthwhile values of life, the quest for its greatest opportunities.

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<sup>1</sup> As the materials from Earl C. Davis came down to me, many sermons were pinned together with a straight pin in the upper-left corner. So it was with this set of notes, and when I started working with them, I expected a beginning-to-end sermon as I had found with other notes pinned together in this way. In fact, it is clear that this sermon was not completed. In these notes are five different beginnings. Furthermore, the notes as they were pinned together were almost certainly out of order, with the last page of what I call, "Version 3" out of place. Here I provide a transcription of all versions with the pages in the right order.

<sup>2</sup> While this sermon—or notes for a sermon—is not dated, almost certainly it is from the period 1905-06 when Earl Davis hand-wrote his sermons. In addition to the hand-writing, the paper is consistent with other datable sermons from that time.

I have referred to the religious life in terms of the Christ-like life. What is it? Meaning of Christ the Word. Why was Jesus so-called? What was his life?

What is it in terms of some of its striking illustrations?

In affairs: M. H. Baldwin

Science:

Letters:

Statesmanship:

Use commonplace illustrations



# The Compelling Power of the Christ Like Life [Version 2]

Earl Clement Davis

No Date

According to John, Jesus said of his mission that he came that people might have life, and life more abundant. Over against this declaration, there appears the popular superstition that anyone who proposes to lead a Christ-like life is taking upon himself the obligations to empty his life of all that is interesting, and joyful. In other words there is a popular superstition to the effect that after all the real pleasure, the real romance, the real fun of life is not to be found in living what may be called a Christ-like life, but rather is to be found in living what is commonly called the life of pleasure. To illustrate, according to this popular superstition, the really happy enjoyable life is to be found in following the desires and passions of life, so-called. To go on a good time, is to cast aside all restraints and {??}, and to follow the life of worldly pleasure, to be lost in the mazes of the underworld. In short the life of lust, and sensation is the life where the greatest pleasure, the greatest satisfactions, the greatest joy is to be found. To that kind of a life we would all give ourselves were it not for the fact that we have been told by the Church that while such a life may be pleasing to us, yet in the sight of God such a life is a life of sin, hateful to God, and that God will punish us if we follow that kind of life.

Therefore, continues this popular superstition, in order to escape this displeasure of God, we become Christian, deprive ourselves of all the pleasures that we really enjoy because we fear some kind of punishment from God, and hope that somehow God will reward us for living a sad gloomy, empty life here, by giving us a life

The Compelling Power of the Christ Like Life [Version 3]

Earl Clement Davis

No Date

As we sit here this morning there is traveling across the Atlantic a shipload of human derelicts from all grades of {??} society, who have been gathered from the underworld of Paris, and other European cities. Men and women, some from homes of {??} and refinement, educated and well-cared for. Some reckless travelers, others people simply the victims of misfortune. What is their story? Drawn to Europe by either the glamour of the war or the call of service of one kind or another, they have been traveling the broad and gaudy highway of a life of unbridled pleasure seeking. The result is unsustainable, hopeless, friendless, characterless, reduced at to the last extremity, living amid the sins of human kind, they have been befriended by societies organized to take care of them. Their passage across is paid, their food is provided, and arrangements of [sic] [have] been made with friendly societies here to care for them after they have landed in New York.

You can see the {??} of the same sort of people in almost every newspaper that you read. Here and there amid the daily records of life, there leaps to the point some tragic story of a disillusioned life. But the smallest fraction of all ever gets into the daily news.

We find them, young and old, in all the walks of life, in churches and out. Who are they? What are they?

They are the people who for one reason or another take it for granted that a life of self-indulgence, or selfish seeking after



The Compelling Power of the Christ Like Life [Version 4]

Earl Clement Davis

No Date

Our of the extra-ordinary developments of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which has been called the lofty and relentless century, there are slowly emerging two great basic faiths.

The Compelling Power of the Christ Like Life [Version 5]

Earl Clement Davis

No Date

Sinner, saint, and hypocrite are three words which are commonly used. In the rough we may describe a sinner as one whose main interests are concerned with what he can get out of life. In the sinner happens to be of weak personality.