

THE SIN OF SILENCE

(Taken from a message by Dr. Laurence White - Sept. 6, 2000)

Nov. 9, 1938 is known as “Crystal Night” in Germany. It was on that night that a trial balloon was launched in preparation for the Holocaust. 7,500 Jewish shops were destroyed, 400 synagogues were burned, 91 Jews were killed, and 20,000 were sent to concentration camps were most of them also died. The only people punished for these atrocities were those who raped Jewish women, for this was in violation of the Nuremberg Laws on sexual intercourse between Aryans and Jews. Just as Hitler had predicted, the churches were silent. There was no national outcry or ground swell of opposition. The pastors savoured the security of their lucrative positions and the public scarcely raised an eyebrow. Hitler had a green light to continue.

There were, of course, a few lonely voices that the Gestapo soon silenced. Among the first was the courageous Dietrich Bonhoeffer who refused to flee and was ultimately executed in prison by special orders from Heinrich Himmler. Another heroic pastor was Martin Niemueller. He had been captain of a U-boat in World War 1 and was a national hero. His church was in a fashionable suburb of Berlin and his parishioners among the German elite. When a fellow pastor found him in prison he cried out “My brother, why are you here?” Niemueller responded: “My brother, given what is happening in our country, why aren’t you here?”

In the winter of 1943 a group of university students in Munich banded together in a desperate attempt to recruit opposition to the malignant evil in their land. Their leader was 25 year old Hans Shoul. They called themselves “The White Rose”. In the few short weeks before they were beheaded they published six leaflets. Here is a quote from leaflet # 4: *“Everywhere, in all times of greatest trial, men have appeared, prophets and saints, who cherished their freedom; who preached the One God , and*

who with His help brought the people to a reversal of their downward course. I ask you now as a Christian, wrestling for the preservation of your greatest treasure: Why do you hesitate? Why are you inclined toward intrigue, calculation, and procrastination? Are you hoping that someone else will raise His arm in your defence? God has given you. God has given you the will to fight. We must attack the evil now where it is strongest”.

Unfortunately, his passionate plea was met by silence from the church.

Another lonely voice of opposition came from Albrecht Houshoyer. He was a quiet, diplomatic person who wrote poetry. After the failed attempt on Hitler's life in 1944 he finally joined the opposition. He was soon caught and cast into prison. As the allied forces advanced in 1945, a special list was made up of those to be executed. Houshoyer was on that list. A small group of seven or eight were escorted by the S.S. to a park in the center of Berlin under the pretense that they were going to be released. When the signal was given each prisoner was shot in the back of the head. Houshoyer's brother found his body in the mud and snow, and in his hand a blood stained piece of paper with this poem:

I AM GUILTY

The burden of my guilt before the law weighs light upon my shoulder. To plot and conspire was my duty to the people. I would have been a criminal if I had not! I am guilty, although not in the way that you may think. I should have done my duty sooner! I was wrong! I should have called the evil more clearly by it's name! I hesitated to condemn for far too long! I now accuse myself! Within my own heart I have betrayed my conscience for far too long! I have deceived myself and my fellow man. I knew the course of evil from its start. My warning was not loud enough or clear enough. Today, as I die, I know what I am guilty of!

But now let us consider the pathetic state of America. Since Jan. 22, 1973 over 40 million innocent children have been systematically slaughtered by abortionists. Many, like our German brethren, are totally silent. They refuse to rock the boat. They have grown accustomed to dumpsters full of dead bodies. They quietly stand in line on election day and vote their pocket book. Perhaps, like Crystal Night, these abortions are only a trial balloon. If so, Satan is being given a green light for even greater atrocities. Please prayerfully consider that there are times in the life of every true believer when silence is a sin!