



May 1, 1968

PROBLEMS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
(Thirtieth in a series)

REPORT ON CIVIL DISORDERS

By T. B. Maston

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The Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, signed by all eleven members of the commission and released March 1, 1968, should be of major interest to all citizens, and particularly to Christian citizens.

We should study it objectively and do what we can to see that many of its recommendations are implemented.

The President appointed the commission in the summer of 1967 (July 28) when many cities in the United States were torn with riots or civil disorders. The commission was directed to answer three questions: (1) What happened? (2) Why did it happen? (3) What can be done to prevent it from happening again?

The commission was representative of both major political parties, of both major racial groups, and of different geographic areas (a most valuable member was Herbert Jenkins, Chief of Police, Atlanta, Ga.).

The Chairman was Gov. Otto Kerner of Illinois, with other prominent political leaders, such as Mayor John Lindsay of New York City and Senator Fred Harris of Oklahoma. There were also on the commission prominent Negroes, such as Senator Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts and Roy Wilkins of NAACP. All were recognized as moderates rather than radicals.

Many of us will disagree with some aspects of the report. Disagreement, however, should not keep us from studying it carefully and seeking to discover in it some guidelines for these difficult and dangerous days.

I would like to make several specific suggestions regarding the report or related to the report.

1. All of us should recognize the seriousness of the civil disorders of recent months. They are a real threat to our nation.

2. We should not blame Negroes in general for the disorders. The commission found that the typical rioter was a teenager or a young adult who was extremely hostile, not only to white people but also to middle-class Negroes. The commission discovered that there were Negro counter-rioters as well as Negro rioters. The vast majority of our Negro citizens are strongly opposed to the riots and to the rioters.

3. We should not accept uncritically the judgment of others concerning the report. Let us not be satisfied with second-hand statements. Before judging it, let us read it. The complete text of the report is available in a Bantam paper-back for \$1.25. It is also available in hard back and it can be purchased or ordered at any bookstore.

4. Why not place a copy of the report in your church library? Also, why not encourage fellow church members to purchase and read it?

5. We should not be surprised if we do not agree with everything in the report. There are few, if any, books other than the Bible with which we entirely agree.

6. We should not fail to look for the good in the report simply because we may find a few statements in it with which we strongly disagree. In other words, we should be able to see its strengths as well as its weaknesses.

7. We should discuss the report with other Christians and with Christian groups. It would be helpful if the young people and adults in our churches would enter into dialogue with one another regarding the report and some of the problems posed by civil disorders. It would be most helpful, if we are mature enough, to discuss these matters with some of our Negro friends.

BAPTIST FEATURES

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May 1, 1968

Convention City Features
"Innumerable Delights"

By Bill G. West
For the Baptist Press

HOUSTON (BP)--The messengers who attend the 1968 Southern Baptist Convention here June 4-7 will be confronted with many perplexing decisions, including which of the innumerable delights offered by the city of Houston they will enjoy.

America's third largest seaport and sixth largest city offers an endless panorama of sightseeing, dining, and entertainment for the family.

Here is a partial list of some of the many things a family can do and see in Houston prior, during and after the convention:

Dining--Houston is recognized as one of America's great dining cities, ranking with New York, San Francisco, and New Orleans. A wide variety of dining pleasures may be found featuring food from China, Japan, Italy, Mexico, Greece, France, Germany, Sweden, England, India, Syria, and Switzerland. For a complete list see the Houston Yellow Pages, pages 863-877.

Sightseeing--Tours are offered by the Grayline Company with excursions to Galveston, the Manned Spacecraft Center, Astrodome, San Jacinto Battleground, and city highlights. Prices range from \$2.50 to \$7.70, children half fare, under 5 free. (For reservations call CA 3-5458.)

If you wish to sightsee on your own, here are some of the places that may interest you:

ALLEN'S LANDING PARK. Marks the founding site of Houston and its first port. Located at the foot of Main at Commerce Streets, it offers a view of Houston's industrial warehouse district. The Laura II conducts passengers on excursion trips up Buffalo Bayou. Adults, \$2; children, \$1. Tickets: Continental Houston Motor Hotel and at the dock. (CA 7-1044.)

ASTRODOME. World's only all-weather, day and night sports stadium. Tours of the Astrodome are scheduled daily. Admission: \$1, with children 6 and under free. (RI 8-4500.)

BAYOU BEND. The decorative art wing of the Museum of Fine Arts, 18 rooms and settings of antique American furniture, is open by reservation only. Two hour conducted tours. Write: Curator, 1 Westcott St., Houston, Texas 77007 or call JA 9-8773.

BURKE BAKER PLANETARIUM AND MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE. Caroline and Hermann Park Loop. Museum and planetarium shows. Museum is free. Planetarium show tickets: Adults \$1, Children, 50¢. Children under 5 not admitted. (JA 6-4273)

HOUSTON GARDEN CENTER. 1500 Hermann Drive in Hermann Park. Several fine gardens including a Rose garden with over 3,000 rose bushes, a bulb garden and the Fragrant Garden.

HOUSTON ZOO. In Hermann Park. One of the largest in the U. S., the zoo has a unique Tropical Bird House where the birds fly freely, a domed hippopotamus house and the reptile house with live vampire bats. Open daily from 9:30 a.m. to sundown. No charge.

HUMBLE BUILDING OBSERVATORY. 800 Bell. The 45th floor offers a 30-mile view of Houston and surrounding area. Admission: 25¢. (CA 1-3636)

JONES HALL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS. 615 Louisiana. A \$7 million gift to the city by Houston Endowment, founded by Jesse Jones. The Hall is a multi-purpose, multi-form building designed to house a variety of arts and audiences of varying sizes. Tours can be arranged by calling at least 24 hours in advance. (CA 2-9351) Free.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS. 1001 Bissonnet. Over \$8 million in permanent exhibits with rotating shows of contemporary art and special collections. Closed Monday. Free. (JA 6-1361)

OLD MARKET SQUARE: Houston's old market place at Travis, Milam, Preston and Congress. The old buildings are now being transformed into an area of quaint shops and restaurants.

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PORT OF HOUSTON. Visitors may drive through the port every Sunday. Pictures may be taken. During the week there is an observation platform for viewing the activity. From downtown take Clinton Drive, east. Enter Gate 8 and follow the arrows to the platform. Free trips down the channel are available but booked well in advance. CA 5-0671. The Sam Houston inspection yacht makes two regular two-hour trips daily except Monday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (OR 2-8114)

SAM HOUSTON HISTORICAL PARK. 515 Allen Parkway. The Harris County Heritage Society is developing this park as a history of early Houston. Four restored and furnished early Houston homes have been moved to the site. Long Row, the 1837 commercial buildings just recently restored include the first library, a barber shop, general store and a saloon. Conducted tours of the houses. Admission: Adults, \$1; children, 35¢. (CA 3-8367)

WESTBURY SQUARE. A unique and charming shopping village where you may wander and browse through shops filled with merchandise from other countries, unusual arts and crafts, see glass blown or watch candles being made. On W. Belfort between Chimney Rock and Hillcroft.

Any additional sightseeing information desired may be procured through the Humble Touring Service, Humble Building, 800 Bell, CA 1-3212; Gulf Tourguide Bureau, Gulf Building, Main at Rusk, CA 5-3141, ext. 2184; American Automobile Association, 3105 S. Main, JA 4-1851.

Theater--Only New York City offers more live theater than Houston. Drama is presented the year round by legitimate theaters: The Alley Theater, 709 Berry, Reservations and information, JA 2-1045 and Foley's Ticket Centers; Houston Theatre Center (Playhouse), 4816 Main, JA 6-2822 or Foley's; Theater Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd, OV 2-3525 or OV 6-8750; Houston Music Theater, Southwest Freeway at Fondren, PR 1-1234 or Foley's.

Baseball--The Houston Astros have home games in the Domed Stadium June 1-9. June 1,2 with Chicago, 3-6 St. Louis, 7-9 Pittsburg. Seats are \$3.50, \$2.50, \$1.50. Get tickets at Astrodome 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Foley's, Trans-Texas ticket counters through the Southwest, or American Automobile Association. By mail, send check or money order to Tickets, Houston Astros, Box 1691, Houston. Add 25¢ for handling.

Astroworld--The Southwest's largest family amusement and entertainment center is open daily 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. beginning June 1. One-price admission includes all rides and attractions. From 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., \$4.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 12. From 7 p.m. - 11 p.m., \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children. For information write Astroworld, Box 1400, Houston 77001.

NASA and Galveston are only minutes away from Houston via the Gulf Freeway. Things to do and see in the Manned Space Craft area are as follows:

BATTLESHIP TEXAS. Past Pasadena on La Porte Road, State Hwy 225. GR 9-2411. The ship was decommissioned in 1948 after 34 years service and presented to Texas as a state shrine. Berthed off the Ship Channel at San Jacinto Battleground. Open from noon to 6 p.m. in the summer. Closed Monday. Admission: Adults 50¢, Children 25¢.

SAN JACINTO MONUMENT & MUSEUM. San Jacinto Battleground. Past Pasadena on La Porte Road, State Hwy 225. GR 9-2421. The world's tallest shrine marks the spot where General Sam Houston defeated General Santa Anna for Texas Independence in 1836. Closed on Monday. Elevator fee to the observation deck is 50¢ for adults; 15¢ for children. The museum depicts the historical and cultural development of the region.

MANNED SPACECRAFT CENTER. On NASA Road 1, four miles east off the Gulf Freeway, 30 miles from Houston. HU 3-3366. Open house every Sunday from 1 - 5 p.m., free. Enter through Main Gate, to Auditorium Building No. 1. Exhibits of actual spaceflight equipment on Project Mercury, Gemini and Apollo. Special advance arrangements required for week days.

GERMAN VILLAGE. Just a short drive out of Houston along the Gulf Freeway towards Galveston Island, and only minutes from NASA, Manned Spacecraft Center, is situated a unique German village complex, complete with restaurant, bakery, delicatessen, nursery garden with live animals, and entertainment by an old fashioned 'oom-pa-pa band. Called the Hofbraugarten, the Village is located immediately off the Gulf Freeway at Farm Road 517. Dickinson-Alvin exit. Young and adult alike may enjoy this indoor-outdoor setting where visitors and German-American citizens from surrounding communities frequently mingle to the excitement of an authentic German 'fest'. HU 8-4262.

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Galveston, located on an island just offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, is about 50 miles southeast of Houston via the Gulf Freeway (Interstate 75).

In Galveston, such attractions include the beaches on the Gulf, an antique auto show, Bishop's Palace (one of 100 outstanding buildings in the nation), the Bolivar ferry ride, the shrimpboat fleets, the Karankawa Indian Museum, the Sea-Arama (an oceanarium, aquarium and porpoise theater), and sightseeing tours by boat, plane or train.

Just 200 miles west of Houston is San Antonio, Tex., where the HemisFair, an official world's fair, will be in progress. Baptist Day at the HemisFair is scheduled on Saturday, June 1. For room reservations, write HemisFair Visitor's Service, P. O. Drawer, San Antonio, Tex., 78206.

With so much to do and see in Houston and in Texas, Southern Baptists attending the convention will indeed face some perplexing decisions.

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Bill West is pastor of River Oaks Baptist Church, Houston, and a member of the publicity committee for the convention.



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