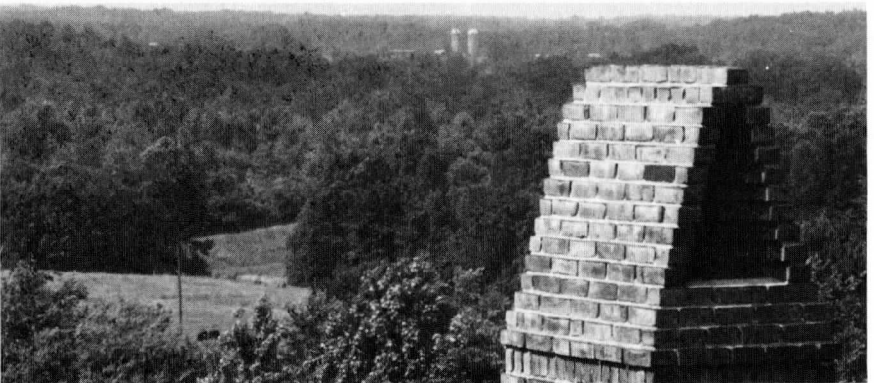


It can happen that one succeeds by force of will and energy in keeping all the rules – perfectly – and yet have absolutely no true inner life; that one feels an emptiness; that one feels futility. This is not a rare thing. When all activity is without feeling; when it is without good disposition; when it is full of distraction; when all the inner works are dry, the soul suffers much. For these souls, duty is the compelling force behind every act, and therefore, all life for such a one remains sterile. It is not rare to find Catholic souls whose spiritual progress is very slow – if at all – although their outward exactitude lends itself to no reproach. It is defective religious thinking to place perfection in the exterior observance of the law.

It is in the heart, that perfection lies – for LOVE IS THE SUPREME LAW! Our observance, when it is animated by love, is extremely pleasing to God. The outward observing of the Commandments does not constitute holiness (THIS - MUST ABSOLUTELY BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD - SOMEHOW, THE PEOPLE ARE NOT RECEIVING PROPER INFORMATION ON THIS POINT! Let us put debate, and argument, and searching, and proving and investigation and all such AWAY! Above all else, the most and the greatest worry that must remain the center of everyone's concern is this: "WHAT IS IT THAT I MUST DO TO SAVE MY SOUL?" The Catholic trivia that we go after, is, after all, trivial!)

The outward observing of the Commandments constitutes a means of arriving at holiness. But the process must go deeper – it must penetrate the heart, if it is to have any significance at all. What is important in our observance is the INNER principle that animates us. The Pharisees observed all things exactly, but the observation was not acceptable. Their attitude of mind spoiled ALL their works. As to the outward observance kept mathematically, but for its own sake and without any interior work to ennoble it, let us at least say that such is not the description of perfection. Our exterior fidelity must be the result, the fruit, and manifestation of the faith, confidence, and love that govern the hearts of true MEN OF GOD.

The Commandments are the expression of God's Holy Will!!



*A View from the Chimney*