

THE SERMONS, LECTURES, AND SONGS OF SIDNEY EDWARD COX

The Salvation Army Southern Bible Conference – Summer 1968
Shamrock Village. Ft. Pierce, Florida

Special Guests:
Dr. John Sutherland Logan¹
Reverend Sidney Cox
Colonel and Mrs. Albert Pepper²

Highlights

Sermon – Dr. Logan. Text: II Timothy 3:1-5. *Wickedness Foretold: Rebels Without A Cause*. This sermon included Logan telling the story of Sidney Cox writing, *Lord, Make Calvary Real To Me*.

Editorial Note: What follows are excerpts from the meetings conducted during the week long Salvation Army Bible Conference of 1968. Officers from throughout the Southern Territory all congregate for this annual camp-style conference which is a Salvation Army institution.

Following the death in August, 1967 of his beloved wife, Violet, who had been a near invalid for many years, Sidney Cox was once again able to travel. Although he was 81 years of age, he was much in demand as a speaker and teacher, and resumed his extensive travel schedule. On this occasion, he had been invited to participate as a special guest speaker for the duration of the conference.

Sidney and Violet Cox voluntarily left the work of The Salvation Army in 1944, and in the summer of 1968, he had been a former officer for over 20 years; yet, he remained extremely close friends with the Southern Salvationists and in popular demand as a speaker, preacher and musician at their meetings. Many of the officers at the conference had been closely associated with him or had even been trained by him at the Army's College for Officers Training during his Salvation Army tenure in Atlanta from 1928 – 1944.

This occasion was an emotional reunion for him and the officers in attendance at this conference.

John Douglas Cox, grandson of Sidney Cox. August, 2009.

¹ Dr. Southerland was a Scottish evangelist who was president of Vennard College, a Wesleyan-Holiness college in University Park, Iowa. He was a popular speaker at Salvation Army events such as Bible Conferences, Officers' Councils and at the Army training colleges in the late 1950s and 1960s.

² Colonel and Mrs. Pepper were well-known Salvation Army officers. Of note, Colonel Pepper became the first principal of the Brengle Holiness Institute, named for another Army icon, Colonel Samuel Logan Brengle. Like Brengle, Pepper became a noted teacher of the doctrine of holiness and was a personal witness to holy living.

DR. LOGAN: Text: II Timothy 3:1-5. *Wickedness Foretold: Rebels Without A Cause*

Sermon Not Transcribed Except for the story of Sidney Cox writing, *Lord, Make Calvary Real To Me* and the Invitation.

Story – *Lord, Make Calvary Real To Me*

...the one answer to this state of hostility and rebellion is the New Testament doctrine of, The Lordship of Christ. I was talking to my good friend, Brother Cox here yesterday and he was telling me how one day after being out on some itinerary, he was returning I believe into Atlanta and he saw a tent meeting in progress and he just stopped long enough to look in on the meeting that was in progress and Captain Reginald Wallis from Britain was the evangelist³ - a great man of God that I knew. And, he [Cox] said...he was about to close the service and he lifted his eyes heavenward, and Brother Cox said, "I heard his prayer, 'Lord, make Calvary real to me.'" And, he [Cox] went from that service and wrote that beautiful chorus, *Lord, Make Calvary Real To Me*. I like choruses that are inspired like that, don't you?

Invitation

Would you rise and bow your head for a moment of quiet. I wonder if we could sing that prayerfully tonight, *King of my life I crown Thee now. Thine shall the glory be. Lest I forget Thy thorn crowned brow. Lead me. Lead me to Calvary.* Make it a personal prayer while we sing.

King of my life I crown Thee now,
Thine shall the glory be,
Lest I forget Thy thorn crowned brow,
Lead me to Calvary.

Lest I forget Gethsemane,
Lest I forget Thy agony,
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary.

I think it was Brother Cox this morning that telling to, "Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." He said something to the effect that we seem to have lost the capacity for sacrifice. We seem to have lost the capacity for sacrifice.

And let me say this to you, that after 10 years in the college presidency, several years in the presidency of a school on the other side of the Atlantic, I have discovered that young people don't want to be indulged, they want to be challenged. They want to be challenged. They don't want to be patronized but they do want something that will challenge them – that will challenge them. And, oh, I'm so glad tonight we've got the greatest challenge in the world, the greatest challenge in the world.

³ Captain Reginald Wallis was an internationally-known British evangelist and Christian author popular during the first half of the 20th century.

Maybe there is someone here tonight and perhaps you've been rebelling against His Lordship. But, oh, may God the Holy Spirit bring us back to the place....my old Dad used to say, "You'll always find the axhead just exactly where you lost it." Oh, don't let's battle over the question of His Lordship over our lives. I said to _____ again and again at Vennard [College], and how true I know this to be, "It costs more not to go with God than it costs to go with Him." I've said this to preachers. I've said this to officers who somehow come to the end of their limited human resources, that felt there was only one honest thing to do, to quit. And, I said, "Don't quit. Don't quit." Oh, may God help us to see it. It costs more not to go with God than it costs to go with Him.

And I'm not going to use a lot of evangelistic technique tonight, and I'm not going to make a lot of pressure in terms of an Altar Call, but you know as we sing this again with bowed heads just one more time, the verse and chorus, if someone would like to slip out quietly and kneel here for a moment and recognize afresh The Lordship of Christ over their lives, to go where He wants you to go, to be what He wants you to be, to say what He wants you to say....you're not your own, you're His. His property. And I'm so glad that we're His property, that He is responsible for the consequences. Oh, may God help us to see it tonight, while we sing it, *King of my life, I crown Thee now*. Sing it prayerfully and if you feel the trummings of the spirit to come and kneel here while we sing, don't be ashamed to come.

King of my life I crown Thee now,
Thine shall the glory be,
Lest I forget Thy thorn crowned brow,
Lead me to Calvary.

Lest I forget Gethsemane,
Lest I forget Thine agony,
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary.

[Logan then leads the congregation in another chorus.]

I'll follow Thee, _____
I'll follow Thee, Thou great Redeemer,
I'll follow Thee, deny me ever,
By Thy grace, I'll follow Thee.