



God's role in today's world

written by
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Americans at their best are realists. We realize that the outlook is dark. Tensions in the international field have their counterparts in the areas of closer personal and group relationships. Common morality as well as idealistic standards are flouted and ridiculed.

Even the so-called "comics" of our newspapers reflect the general anxiety and emotional uneasiness. The other day a popular cartoon character was shown reading his newspaper. One of his dogs climbed on his chair, peered over his shoulder, became absorbed in what was printed and looked aghast at the record of things a dog wouldn't do.

Christians live today against the darkness, but it is not the first time. Men and women who have found in their experience of God the strategy and power for successful living have been severely tested in every age. The darkness has sought to extinguish their light of faith.

Christians against the darkness are persuaded of one truth: Skepticism is no answer. Skepticism--"the attitude of disbelief in the reality of God and the trustworthiness of man"--has its sincere and clever advocates. Christians know that such skeptics cut the nerve of all constructive effort, for if God and morality do not matter, human life is cheap, and moral responsibility is dodged. Let skepticism touch a marriage, and it begins to dissolve. Let distrust enter a peace conference, and the seeds of new wars and disagreements are sown.

Take time to evaluate your assets, to appraise the facts, to see the action of God in the disorder and darkness of our time.

Leadership essay Wins press coverage

The "Shore Leaf," weekly newspaper of Naval Station, San Diego, recently printed a leadership essay written by HM2 Alvin D. Rettig of Bennington's "H" Division.

Rettig, a recent graduate of the five-day leadership course at the Fleet Training Center, Naval Station, San Diego, had written the essay while attending the course. The "Shore Leaf," as a matter of policy, prints one outstanding leadership essay each week. Rettig's work appeared in the January 31, 1969, edition. The following is his essay:

"The United States Navy, as well as all other organizations in the world, contributes its success to the ability of its leaders.

"A reliable leader must be capable of handling his men with efficiency, which requires that he follow three basic steps of good leadership: Organization, Deputization, and Supervision.

"In order to organize, the leader must be able to oversee the entire situation at hand, and determine several important facts. He must analyze the job set before him, determine the strength of his men's ability, and at the same time, synchronize their efforts to insure efficiency on the entire job.

"The leader must also delegate some of his responsibilities to the potential leaders of his men. By doing so, he will promote a feeling of respect among his group, and at the same time will be promoting the level of initiative of each individual.

"The last of the three basic steps of good leadership is perhaps the most important: Supervision.

"By following the above guidelines, one can improve his leadership abilities, and therefore, to a certain extent, predetermine the success of his business and organization."