

considered the Bible to be the infallible Word of God. This loss of Christian confidence in God left a vacuum in their lives. They were preachers and teachers, and they needed something about which they could become enthusiastic and make a living. Gradually the vacuum was filled with another religion, the goal of which, as I shall point out, is very close to that claimed by present day communism.

This religion came to be called the 'social gospel'. It should be clearly pointed out that the Christian Church has always stood for the amelioration of the suffering of this world. Philanthropic interest in those less fortunate than ourselves is common to all true Christians. It can safely be said that a far greater amount of true betterment of social conditions has come from the results of Christianity than from any other source. This new 'social gospel', however, was not simply a matter of suggesting that we do everything that we can to help others. It was actually a plan for total reorganization of social life.

What the adherents of the social gospel advanced was very simple. It amounted merely to this. If anyone possesses more than his fellows do, take it away from him and give it to others. Establish a situation in which no human being has opportunity on account of what he owns, to direct the activities of others, but in which all will be ordered and organized in such a way that each will receive what he needs, and that all will work together for the common good.

This sounds, at first, like a very beautiful theory. Unfortunately, however, it is a theory which does not recognize the weaknesses of human nature. Therefore, it is quite impractical. It has been tried by small colonies many times, through the centuries, and has usually resulted in utter