

In recent years, many of those who should have been preaching the Historic Christian Faith have, instead, been doing their utmost to forward another religion, one which actually has little to distinguish it from the economic and social tenets of the communism which is now in control of Russia and its satellites.

This religion <sup>came</sup> ~~can~~ to be called the "social gospel." It should be clearly pointed out that the Christian Church has always stood for 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 "social gospel," however, was not simply a matter of suggesting that we do everything that we can to help others. It developed into a plan for complete reorganization of social life.

What the adherents of the social gospel advanced was, apparently, a very simple plan. 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. It is quite impractical. It has been tried by small colonies many times, through the centuries, and has usually resulted in utter failure. Cooperation among human beings is most desirable, and there are many ways of securing it. But the idea that all society should be reorganized into a socialistic or communistic organization, with the economic activities of all subordinated to a general master plan, is one which finds no warrant in the Bible, and which does not work out in practical experience.

The Social Gospel is powerless to accomplish its avowed purpose. In fact,