

## LAUSTADE '74 MESSAGE

*Billy Graham*

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I'm delighted to be back in Lausanne when the sun is shining. The last time I came to visit in this stadium and to preach in this stadium, it was pouring rain. The weather changes faster in Lausanne than any place I've ever been, I think. I left my room this morning and it was very cold, like wintertime. I have three suits with me; one is for warm weather, one is for cold weather, one is for medium. I decided to take the cold weather suit and here it is, summertime again. But it is wonderful to be in this city. As you've already heard, there are nearly 4,000 people behind us here from 150 countries of the world. Switzerland has a long history of interest in evangelism and missions. In the sixteenth century alone, there was one year when you sent 143 missionaries to other countries.

Lausanne is a wonderful city. I have been here now two weeks and it is one of the most hospitable, friendly cities I've ever been to. I've been riding back and forth on the metro. I have seen something you don't see very often anymore in the United States. I've seen men getting up and giving ladies seats. I notice that you say "please" and you say "thank you" in ordinary conversation. And you still have time to talk with friends in a sidewalk cafe. We in America are too busy.

I had an interesting experience the other day. I stopped to get some English newspapers at a newsstand. My wife and friend were in the car waiting for me outside. I got back in the car after my purchase. The lady from the newsstand came running out to the car and grabbed me by the arm. She said, "Are you an American or are you an Englishman?" I said, "I'm an American." She said, "Oh, I'm very happy. I've just won a bottle of whiskey. I was talking to my friend in the store. She said you were English. I said you were American. We had a bet."

There's another thing about this city that makes us from America stand in awe. It's called the "city of kings." So many royal people have chosen to live here. I noted yesterday downtown that you had cleared the streets and there were the markets. Thank you on behalf of all of us in this Congress for your hospitality and your friendship.

Now the Psalm that was just read a moment ago. I was going to preach a sermon on it, but we've already had three great sermons and I don't think you want to hear a fourth. So I'll only mention what I meant to say, but I want to explain how you today can make this same commitment to Jesus Christ. We have heard how a man from a Hindu background came to Christ. We've heard a former Buddhist who came to Christ. We've heard a man from Africa tell how he came out of paganism. How can you, in intellectual, sophisticated Switzerland come to the same Christ?

In the twenty-third Psalm there are three things that David, the Psalmist, touches on. He was a ruler in war and in peace. At this moment there's fighting in Southern Europe, in Cyprus. We do not know where it is going to lead. The armies of the world are beginning to marshal. Bombs are being put in airplanes. This is how the first world war started,

how the second world war started. It is our prayer today that this will not be the third world war. I'm going to ask that we all stand and have a moment of prayer for peace. Let us have a moment of silence. Pray for the people of Cyprus; pray for the people of Turkey and Greece; pray for the people who are the diplomats of the world, that God will move upon them to have peace instead of war. Amen.

David was the great king of ancient Israel. He had been a great warrior. He was also a great king in peace. One night he was sitting out under the stars thinking and he mentioned in this Psalm the three greatest problems the world has ever faced. He wrote this thousands of years ago but it applies to you and me today.

First, he said, "He restores my soul." The Bible teaches that you have a soul. You have a body, but living inside your body is your soul, or your spirit. That is the part of you that is made in the image of God. It is the part of you that has the ability to contact God. We have in America what we call "soul music." I asked a black American friend one day, "What do you mean by 'soul'?" He said, "Everything that is worthwhile in a man is soul." Now you have a soul. Every person in this stadium has a soul. Now the Bible teaches something has happened to your soul or your spirit that affects every phase of your life. It teaches that we were made in the image of God and we were made perfect. Man lived in a perfect world, in utopia. There was no suffering, no starvation; no war, no hatred, no death; a perfect world. But something happened. Man rebelled against the Creator and that rebellion is called "sin" in the Bible. Sin infected the entire human race. It affected your soul, it affected your body, it affected the way your intellect works, and it caused death to come upon the whole human race. So that's why we find men all over the world groping for God.

Sin has caused alienation from God. And we are under judgment. The Bible says, "It is appointed unto men once to die and after that the judgment." So in India, in Africa, in China, the Soviet Union, in America, in Switzerland, there are millions and millions of people searching for God and there are thousands of students today that are searching for purpose and meaning in life. This is why the suicide rate in most of the world is climbing dramatically. Young people are not finding the peace, assurance, joy satisfaction, and fulfillment that they are searching for. They need their souls restored. David said, "He restores my soul."

How does God restore your soul? God looked down upon the human race. From the moon, we saw the earth when the men walking on the moon took pictures. The earth looked no bigger than my thumb, taken from the moon. The Bible says, "God so loved the world." That's what makes this world in the universe so important. That's what makes you as an individual so important. God loves you! God loves you so much that he decided to save you. You were alienated from God, separated from God, in the bondage of sin, filled with guilt, searching for a way out. Jean-Paul Sartre says there is no way out. Many of the modern philosophers say there's no way out. God says, "There is a way out. I have provided a way." What is that way? "God so loved the world that he gave his son, Jesus Christ." It is incredible, almost unbelievable, that the mighty God of creation would himself, in the person of his Son, come to

this earth, and that is exactly what he did. Jesus Christ came to this earth. He made the blind see, he made the deaf to hear, he had compassion upon the poor, but that is not why he came. He came not only to serve, but he came to die.

Look at the Catholic churches of Switzerland. Look at the Protestant churches. They all have a cross. Why? Because the Cross is the heart of Christianity. On the Cross the Lord, Jesus Christ died for you. You see, because of sin there is judgment. God says, "You have broken the law. You deserve death. You deserve judgment. You are under condemnation." On the Cross Jesus Christ took the death, the judgment and the condemnation. The Bible says that God laid on him the sins of us all. You're a sinner under judgment. You're a lawbreaker under judgment.

Right here in Lausanne, we parked too long the other day in our car. We came back and there was a ticket on the windshield. That's happened three times. We're under condemnation. We have to pay the price. Whatever they say to pay, we pay. We broke the law. Now one time we only broke the law by just a few minutes, but it was enough to bring a fine. So we're learning that you can't break the law in Switzerland. You cannot break God's law. But you have! I have! I'm a sinner, a lawbreaker. What is the fine that I have to pay? Death, judgment, hell. We've broken God's law. But Jesus Christ went to prison for us; he went to judgment for us; he paid the fine for us. They put nails in his hands, they put a crown of thorns on his brow, they put spikes in his feet. He hung on the Cross. He could have come down from the Cross. He refused. He stayed there because he loved you and he loved me. He took my sins. Now God says, "Because he died, because he paid the price, I will forgive you. But more than that, I will justify you." Justification means far more than forgiveness. Suppose you offend me. I may forgive you but I cannot forget. God forgives but he also forgets. God has the ability to forget your sins, and God can justify you just as though you'd never committed a sin. That's what the Cross is all about; Jesus Christ did not stay on the Cross; he was raised from the dead and today he is a living Christ and a coming Christ. There is a kingdom yet to come. Peace is going to come to the world. The kingdom of God shall some day prevail. Christ will come back. He will set up his kingdom and you and I that have believed and trusted in him will be members of that kingdom.

Has your soul been restored? Do you know Christ in your heart? Mao Tse-tung, the ruler of China, said, "My greatest concern for China is that the souls, not just the minds or the bodies or the emotions or the wills, but the souls of people be possessed by commitment." In America and in Europe we are putting a great deal of emphasis on the mind, the body, and the emotions by our materialism and all the other things. But what about our souls? Alexander Solzhenitsyn left the Soviet Union and came to Switzerland. He was protesting against the fact that Russia was caring more for the bodies and minds of her people than for their souls. This is the same problem in America. It's also the problem of Western Europe. We are too materialistic. We need our souls restored and that can only come through a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. Why can it only come through Christ? Why not through Buddha? At the end of his life, Buddha said, "I am still searching for truth." Jesus said, "I am the truth; I am the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." One time he

said, "I am that I am." When he said that, he set himself apart from every other man that ever lived. Was he the Son of God? If he was not the Son of God, then he was the greatest liar in history or he was a mental case. And you have to decide. You have to decide by faith. You cannot understand it all intellectually. Now the Gospel is intellectual. It appeals to the mind. It has great logic but in that first step when you come to Christ, you may be a professor at the university or you may be just a simple worker, you have to become as a child and come in simple faith to Jesus Christ. The man from India, the man from Japan, the man from Africa all had to come by simple childlike faith and say, "I believe." When they did that, their lives were changed. Their sins were forgiven. A new life came to them and that same Gospel is available to you today, free. David said, "He restores my soul." Has your soul been restored?

The second thing David said was, "I shall not want." We live in a world filled with problems of poverty, race, and pollution. But your personal problems concern you even more. Boredom — one of the great psychologists in Switzerland recently said that boredom is the greatest problem in Europe. Another problem, guilt. One of your great psychiatrists wrote a book entitled *Guilt and Grace*. He stresses the terrible and tormenting thing that guilt is and he says only God can get rid of the guilt. Loneliness — you can be in a crowd, at a party, everybody laughing and talking. All of a sudden there is a bit of loneliness that sweeps over you. Psychologists are calling it "cosmic loneliness." What are you lonely for? Lonely for God. You were made for God and without God you cannot find fulfillment. Are you lonely that way? Many people turn to alcohol, drugs, sex, anything to escape. They say, "I want to get away. I want to run." So man is on the run, trying to escape these lonely feelings. You no longer need to run. You can come to Christ this afternoon.

The emptiness in life today is reflected in modern art, literature, philosophy, everywhere. There was a student at one of our great universities in America and she was crying for three days. They sent her to the university psychiatrist. He couldn't find out what was wrong. Finally her father came and she finally told her father. She said, "Father, I want something but I don't know what it is." God. She was searching for God. And that's why so many thousands of young people today are committing suicide all over the world. In America, in Europe, in Japan, the final escape seems to be suicide. But that is no escape. You can take a gun and blow into your head but you don't kill yourself. You only kill the body. Your soul goes out into eternity, still separated from God, still lonely, but it's too late. The Bible says, "There is a time to come to Christ." Have you come to Christ? Have you put your faith and your confidence in Him?

And then the last thing David said, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." The greatest crisis that you will ever have to face is the day that you die. And you're going to die. Now all of us hate war but I'm going to say something that will shock you. An English professor at Oxford University, C.S. Lewis, said this, "War does not increase death. Death is total in every generation and death is the result of sin." Some day, the Bible teaches, God will give us a new body. But when you face that greatest crisis and you have to walk through that valley alone (no one else can go with you), if you are in Christ, he's

there. He is your shepherd. He is the good shepherd leading the sheep. When General Eisenhower was dying, he sent for a clergy friend of his and he said to the pastor, "Would you tell me once again how I can be sure?" The pastor took out his Testament, showed him exactly how it came to be that Christ died for our sins, held the hand of the great American and had a prayer. When he left, the former president of the United States had a big smile on his face and he said, "I'm sure." Are you sure? Are you certain? It could happen to you.

There is a girl here this afternoon. She is a nurse in Niger, Africa. She was born and until she was fourteen years of age she lived in the German part of Switzerland. She came to the French part of Switzerland when she was fourteen. She felt lonely. She also had a disease of the lungs. She cried herself to sleep at night. One night in the middle of the night she called upon Christ. She said, "Oh, Christ, come into my heart." Christ came into her heart. He took the tears and the loneliness away. Later she saw a map of Africa. She said, "I will give my life to Christ in Africa." She's there giving out bread and also the bread of life.

Do you know Christ? You can today. You say, "Well, what do I have to do?" Three things. Listen! First, you must repent of your sins. You say, "Well, what is that?" That means that you change, change your thinking, change your attitude toward God, determine to make Christ first in your life as Lord and Savior, be willing to change your whole life-style, your whole way of living. That's repentance. Have you repented? You say, "But I'm a member of the church." There are thousands of people that are in the church today that have never truly repented. I was in a Reformed church when I came to Christ. I was head of the young people's society. The clergyman thought that I was the finest Christian among the young people, but he didn't know me very well. He didn't know the hunger of my heart. He did not know the sins of my life. When I was seventeen years of age I gave my life to Christ and he changed me as he did these three men. Most of you that are here today are more like me than you are like them. Many of you are in the church but you don't know Christ.

The second thing; by faith you must receive Christ. By faith! "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." You say, "Well, intellectually I would say I suppose I believe." But faith means more than that. It means your total commitment, your total life, everything given over to Jesus Christ.

The third thing; you must be willing to obey Christ and follow Christ, even though when you go home and tell your parents and friends that you came to Christ, they may kick you and beat you. You must be willing. "Oh but my friends or my parents would never treat me the way they did Dr. Hatori. They may think that I'm a little strange or a little different, but they would treat me with great kindness." But many of your friends would look at you very strangely. They see you carrying a Bible, reading the Bible, studying the Bible, praying, going with Christian groups. They'd see a great change beginning to take place in your life. Then there would be a certain type of psychological persecution. Jesus said, "You have to be willing to deny self and take up the cross and follow me." Then after you come to Christ, you serve Christ by doing all

the good deeds you can and getting involved in all the social things that you can to help your fellowman. But first there must be that step and Jesus said you must do it publicly. He said, "If you're not willing to confess me before men, I'll not confess you before my Father which is in heaven." That's one of the reasons I ask people to come forward and make a public commitment of their faith in Jesus Christ. If you really mean business, you don't mind who knows or who sees. That is what I'm going to ask you to do this afternoon.

Now let me warn you about one thing. Don't put it off. Do it now. When will we ever see another moment like this in Lausanne? Right now God is speaking to your heart. There's a little voice inside you that says, "You need this Christ." That's the voice of God. Come and receive him today, now. The Swiss are the watchmakers of the world. You are called the timekeepers of the world, and this is your time with God. What a tragedy if you help make or sell a watch but you miss God's time. This is God's moment and God's time. The Bible says, "He that hardeneth his heart being often reproved, shall suddenly be cut off and there will be no remedy."

I'm going to ask hundreds of you to get up out of your seats, come on the track right in front of where you're sitting and say, "I want Christ in my heart today." A simple act, but very important. It could mean a new change in your life. I'm going to ask everyone to bow in prayer as people come. Just stand on the track around. People are already on the way. You come and join them.

## TESTIMONY

*K. N. Nambudripad*

Good afternoon, friends. I wish to tell how the Lord Jesus saved me from sin and misery and gave me his peace and joy.

In 1959, I was a resident in neurosurgery in Bristol, England. I was lonely and shy. My wife and four children were far away in India. One evening in a cocktail party I was sipping orange juice. A Christian nurse who was also drinking orange juice came to me. In the conversation that ensued, she told me of Jesus Christ, her Savior. I argued with her and told her my Hindu religion was good enough for me. However, when I went back to my room I began to think about Jesus. As a twelve-year-old boy I had heard of Jesus; I had read about him, and I had been greatly attracted to Jesus as a man.

I began to read the Bible which was placed in my room by the Gideons. I was greatly affected by the new reading of this book. I was affected by its authority. I said to myself, "This is not at all like the Hindu books which I am used to. This sounds true. The writers have a real experience of God." I said, "John, who was a fisherman, had an experience of God which I, a Brahmin philosopher, did not have." I said, "I must too have this experience."

It is now fifteen years since that encounter and surrender happened. Many trials and tribulations and difficulties have been my lot. I was put in a psychiatric clinic by my people. I was given electric shock, but the Lord was constantly with me. The Bible became my living friend and reality. I praise his name!

Now my wife and children, who had left me, are back with me and they are Christians. Now depression has left me. I don't get depressed any longer. Jesus keeps me away from depression. I'm never lonely. Jesus is with me. When I operate, he helps me with wisdom and humility. When patients consult me with their tremendous problems, Jesus gives me compassion. Jesus has forgiven my sins; I have no guilt feelings; I can tell it to Jesus.

All the Hindu philosophy that I have learned is worthless when compared to the love of Jesus. I now get great joy in serving Jesus in Christian Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana. And when I have free time, I witness in open air meetings to the blessed love of Jesus Christ. He has delivered me. He has saved me.

Thank you very much.