

Billy Graham: Still Making an Impact at 95

Billy Graham, one of the most well-known and beloved evangelists in American history, turned 95 Thursday. And while he has not actively preached messages to mass audiences since 2009, Graham continues to make a major impact on American culture. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association recently launched one of its boldest campaigns ever, My Hope With Billy Graham, to bring the gospel to lost souls of this country in chaotic and perilous times.

Below is an interview Graham did in 1952 with Robert Walker, then the editor of *Christian Life* magazine, about the presidential election of that year featuring Dwight D. Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson. At the time, the election was said to be one of the most crucial in American history concerning the future of the country.





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the ultimate fate of our nation, but also the fate of the entire democratic world as we know it today. I have been in Europe seven times since the war. On those visits I have talked with military men, statesmen, and religious leaders. Their convictions are probably best summed up by the British historian Arnold J. Toynbee when he says, "The future of the world rests with the United States."

Question: Is there any single factor in connection with the coming election which you believe will affect our nation—and hence the world—more than any other?

Answer: Yes. It is the drift toward the socialistic or materialistic solution for problems. For instance, in my travels abroad I have discovered that Americans are not as popular as they used to be. Nor am I alone in my observation. I have talked with others who have traveled even more widely than I. They agree, too, that our effort to buy friendships all over the world with dollar bills is having a reverse effect.

This is only logical. In our foreign policy we have forgotten that men are spiritual and moral creatures. Hence, when we make a materialistic approach, we get only a materialistic answer. About the only thanks we get for such

help is a request for more. Unless we change this policy, we will not only lose faith in our own sense of values, but drag the whole world down with us.

Question: What do you think should be done?

Answer: Instead of sending only material aid to foreign countries, we should send spiritual help as well. There is a great spiritual vacuum abroad that we are doing nothing to fill. No money out of the billions we are giving away is being allocated to meet the spiritual needs of Europe. Take Great Britain as a case in point. This has been a country of church-going people. Today, however, only eight per cent of the British people are identified with any church. Less than five per cent attend church.

Britain today is bogged down in a spiritual depression coupled with an economic pressure. In my opinion, this can very well lead to Marxist socialism, which is only a hairline from communism, unless something is done immediately. Here, as elsewhere, we must help alleviate the economic situation or face the consequences of advancing communism. But unless we couple this physical aid with spiritual help, the economic assistance will be in vain.

After all, we must remember that man does not live by bread alone. He must

have the consciousness of an abiding heavenly Father Who loves and cares for him in order to be well-balanced enough to face the problem of successful living in our world today.

Question: You have mentioned Great Britain as one spot needing spiritual help. Can you pin point for us a few of the most important areas spiritually—or the spots which you believe to be the most significant for the spread of the Gospel today?

Answer: First is America. America is the last bastion of Christianity. If America fails, the Christian civilization will be in an eclipse. Second is Great Britain. Third is Germany, for Germany is the key to the continent of Europe. Right now Germany is producing one hundred and twenty-five per cent above her pre-war level—that is, Western Germany. And Christian leaders with whom I have talked in both Great Britain and on the continent tell me there are evidences of a turning to Christ in Western Germany that they do not see even in Great Britain. We must capitalize upon this opportunity immediately. The fourth most important spot for us, I believe, is Japan. This is an aggressive hard-working nation, our frontier against communism on the west. Missionaries working there still report great results to the preaching of the Gospel. As I see it, these four nations control the democratic world. As Christians we must do everything we can to pray and ask God to send a spiritual awakening and revival to them.

Question: What, in your opinion, is the greatest need of the evangelical church within these countries now?

Answer: I think the desperate need in Europe at the moment is for Bible institutes. Clearly that is the need in Great Britain. Christian leaders there tell me they have no young people trained to minister the Gospel. One evangelist, for instance, told me that he has to do his own publicity and advance work, lead

"Bible institutes are needed in Europe."



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