

Houston Gulf Coast Crusade
Rice Stadium, Houston, Texas
Thursday, November 12, 1981

Did we see on T.V.?

WHY I AM AN OPTIMIST

(15)

ILL: This week, President Reagan, in
his news conference declared to
the world:

~~—~~ "You can look pessimistically
on the world today, or you can
look optimistically at it.

~~—~~ I chose the optimistic look."

~~—~~ Tonight I want to speak on

^{Too}
WHY I AM AN OPTIMIST

optimist...2

TEXT: Psalm 102:6-7

ILL: Man at Foyles Bookshop in
London, 1954 and 1955

~~—~~ The whole world is like a pellican,
owl, and sparrow

ILL: "A Tale of Two Cities"

~~—~~ Dickens wrote of the French
Revolution in 1775

~~—~~ that it was the "best" and
"worst" of times

optimist....3

ILL: Damocles

~~—~~ Fourth Century B.C.

~~—~~ King of Syracuse

ILL: Difference between an optimist
and a pessimist was highlighted
in one of our prisons

~~—~~ two convicts were looking
out of a cell window one night

~~—~~ the pessimist saw only the bars

~~—~~ the optimist saw stars

~~—~~ In our world today we can see both.

optimist...4

*Man Suffering from Depression*ILL: I heard of one ~~pessimist~~ whojumped from the top of the ~~the~~ *a Tall*~~*Buruli*~~ ~~Sears Tower in Chicago~~~~but as he was going down~~~~he turned into an optimist~~~~and as he passed by a window~~on the ~~third~~ *Tenth* floor he was asked~~"How are you?"~~~~He replied,~~~~"Good -- so far!"~~*Ill. Prisoner and Suicide - Thy Ball
jagged in*ILL: Demonstration recently in England
(Birmingham)~~on back of one~~ *T. Shirt*~~sewn in huge white letters~~~~were the words~~ "No Future"

optimist...5

ILL: Here in Houston this week

~~we~~ we've been reading headlines
and stories that state:

~~Future~~ "Future of mankind..."

~~Deadlocked~~ Deadlocked on the precipice
of all-out war...

~~Pushing~~ Pushing toward a nuclear
showdown...

~~Disaster~~ Disaster of cata~~strophic~~
proportions...

~~People~~ "People scared"

optimist....6

ILL: Suicide

~~->~~ Doctors are among society's worst!

~~->~~ They get terribly depressed when they can neither heal others totally

~~->~~ nor themselves.

ILL: Perhaps the most adulated and pampered woman of this century

~~->~~ just had a widely heralded biography published on her life

~~->~~ she is described as having

~~-~~ in her heart

~~-~~ been a "sad" person

~~->~~ really a chronic "hypochondriac"

optimist...7

ILL: Francois Mitterand, President of France

~~--~~ ^{Says} laments that ours is a
"tragic" world

~~--~~ "everything is a struggle"

~~Ill. Hussein Here Tonight~~

ILL: After death of Sadat and Dayan

~~--~~ who played such major roles
at the Camp David peace offensive

~~--~~ Lord Chalfont says

~~--~~ the prospects for peace in the
Middle East are

~~--~~ "really terrible"

~~--~~ "Now after one single act of
violence and terror, the
Middle East stands once more
on the brink of war."

optimist...8

ILL: Jesus once said there would be
a time when

~~-~~ "upon the earth distress of
nations, with perplexity"
(Luke_21:25)

~~-~~ distress

~~-~~ means "pressure"

~~-~~ "perplexity"

~~-~~ means "no way out"

ILL: Matthew 24 Knocking at the Door

ILL: Assassination attempts

~~-~~ terrorist attacks

optimist...9

~~—~~ Your own personal problems

~~—~~ boredom

~~—~~ children in rebellion

ILL: Yesterday read of the 31 year old son
of one of America's most wealthy
and influential families (Alfred Bush Ford)

~~—~~ who left America for India
with this resolve

~~—~~ "I renounce capitalism.

I renounce communism.

I come to India to settle here
permanently to have the grace
of the supreme god -- Krishna."

~~—~~ And with this he assumed the
name Ambarish Das.

optimist...10

~~--~~ DrugsILL: Elvis
~~ILL:~~ILL: Mick Jagger
~~ILL:~~~~--~~ Keith Richards~~--~~ Unemployment~~--~~ The pinch of inflation~~--~~ Bad healthILL: ~~Mayo Clinic~~~~Here in Houston - one of great
Medical Center of World - All Around
Here~~

optimist...ll

~~—~~ An unfulfilled longing in your
soul

ILL: Man with Limberger Cheese under nose
~~—~~ whole world smells bad.

ILL: New York taxi driver
~~—~~ asked me if anything to
cheer about where I live

~~—~~ said, "Yes"

~~—~~ "Several things that Jesus said."

1. "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins
be forgiven thee"
(Matthew_9:2).

~~Man~~ Man sick of palsy
~~(paralytic)~~ (paralytic)

~~Jesus~~ Jesus knew deeper needs

~~"Man~~ "Man cannot live on bread alone"
(Matthew_4:4, NEB)

~~"A~~ "A man's life consisteth not in
the abundance of the things which
he possesseth" (Luke_12:15).

optimist...13

~~—~~ "There is no peace, saith the Lord,
unto the wicked" (Isaiah 48:22)

~~—~~ "Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth, that
shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7)

~~—~~ Man is trapped in sin.

~~—~~ ILL: A featured film in Houston
this week is

~~—~~ "The first deadly sin"

~~—~~ and sin yields guilt

optimist...14

ILL: A swinging single wrote to
Ann Landers (Nov. 11, 1981)

-- of one night stands

-- the dilemma

Use Tomorrow

-- is the temptation greater

-- or the guilt that always
follows

-- both are devastating.

ILL: We saw ^{Recently} ~~today~~ the account of a
54 year old who beat up his
91 year old mother

~~to~~ get money

~~\$~~ \$1200

~~then~~ from the torture of his
guilt he committed suicide.

optimist...15

~~→~~ The Bible, thank God, assures
there's glad forgiveness for all sin!

-- "Blessed are they whose iniquities
are forgiven, and whose sins are
covered" (Romans_4:7)

~~→~~ God can forgive sin because of the
cross.

ILL: United States Air Force

~~→~~ trying to locate a major
who was lost in flight

~~→~~ cost \$10 million for one man

optimist...16

~~—~~ God gave "far more" than that
for each of us.

ILL: The Los Angeles ~~pundit~~ ^{Writer}

~~—~~ Alice Ramirez

~~—~~ wrote in her syndicated column
this week ^{Recently}

~~—~~ in this year of the handicapped

~~—~~ she spent a day in a
wheelchair

~~—~~ as an assumed paraplegic

~~—~~ it gave her a whole new
perspective of what it means
to be handicapped.

optimist...17

~~→~~ God in Christ came down and
became a man

~~→~~ just like us

~~→~~ only without sin

~~→~~ and finally died on a cross

~~→~~ 1 Peter 1:18 "Forasmuch as ye know
that ye were not redeemed with
corruptible things, as silver and
gold, ... But with the precious blood
of Christ, as of a lamb without
blemish and without spot"

-- (~~Criswell~~ ~~note~~)

~~Revelation 1:5~~ "Jesus Christ...loved
us, and washed us from our sins in
his own blood"

ILL: The press this morning carried
pictures of ~~Lisa D'Amato~~ *Daughter of a Senator*

~~19~~ 19 year old sophomore ~~daughter~~

~~of New York Senator D'Amato~~

~~She~~ She had walked out of the shower

~~where~~ where she had spent 121 hours and
one minute

~~into~~ the Guinness Book of
World Records.

~~That~~ That was a long wash.

~~Jesus Christ~~ Jesus Christ can wash away your sins
forever in an instant.

optimist...19

ILL: Yaya Sayed (Sa-eeed)

-- gave testimony in our recent
San Jose Crusade

-- former world class soccer player

-- drinking

-- drugs

"Yaya Sayed"
Don't Use
this illustration
???

ILL: Mrs. Reagan has been speaking out
to the parents of America this
week

-- warning that "drugs and alcohol"
are perhaps

-- "the most serious problems
our country faces"

(Nov. 10)

optimist...20

-- gambling

-- girls

-- thinking suicide

This is
all sayed
illustration

-- injured in car accident

-- in hospital

-- team mate who he hated

-- "I love you"

-- and gave him Bible

-- he hated Christians, who were
stoned back home

-- faced jail

-- money frozen in banks

-- accepted Christ

optimist...21

-- Went home to visit dying mother
in hospital

-- she said if he would not reject
Christianity

-- "out of my room!"

cut out
- Yaya Sayed
Illustration

-- Arrested, beaten

-- released, with two weeks to
reject Christ

-- or jail for life

-- or killed

-- skipped the country!

-- Promised Christ to tell people
about Him for rest of life.

optimist...22

11. "Be of good cheer; it is I; be
not afraid" (Matthew_14:27; Mark_6:50)

~~—~~ We have already seen that these
are troublesome times.

ILL: We often hear people say

~~—~~ "If only Jesus were here now"

~~—~~ We need not brood

~~—~~ He is here

~~—~~ He is alive!

optimist...23

ILL: John Wesley on ship

~~✂~~ May 24, 1738 (243 years ago)

~~✂~~ he was clergy, and missionary

~~✂~~ but had not totally
committed to Christ

ILL: Bravery of five year old boy

~~✂~~ walking by cemetery at night

~~✂~~ holding on to his father's hand

ILL: We will all walk through

Valley of death

~~✂~~ "Be of good cheer; I am with you;
be not afraid"

optimist...24

~~—~~ You have God's presence in
persecution, suffering, heartache

Dejection

~~—~~ ILL: One of the top pops in *lately*

~~Houston~~ this week is

George Greeley's

~~—~~ "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart?"

~~—~~ Jesus can.

~~—~~ He came "to heal the broken hearted"

Telephone

~~—~~ bereavement

~~—~~ and death

optimist...25

~~→~~ "Yea, though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil" (Psalm_23:4)

ILL: Corrie ten Boom once said

- ~~→~~ when Christ is in the heart
- ~~→~~ the worst can happen
- ~~→~~ but the best remains
- ~~→~~ "and the best is yet to be"

~~→~~ "In the world ye shall have
tribulation"

III. "Be of good cheer; I have overcome
the world" (John_16:33)

~~Jesus~~ Jesus made statement just before
Gethsemane and Calvary

~~had~~ had warned disciples

~~as~~ as the world hated me
~~it~~ it will hate you.

~~Uses~~ Uses the Greek word "kosmos"

~~this~~ this is all the evil in the world

optimist...27

~~—~~ Satanic cosmic principles of

~~—~~ force

~~—~~ greed

~~—~~ selfishness

~~—~~ ambition

~~—~~ and pleasure

~~—~~ ~~hold control~~

~~—~~ the world system is powerful

~~—~~ it is often outwardly religious

~~—~~ scientific

~~—~~ cultured

~~—~~ and elegant

~~—~~ but ~~seething~~ with rivalries, ambitions,
lust, hate, and greed

- ~~-~~ And is upheld in any crisis
most of the time by armed force
- ~~-~~ Dominated by Satanic principles
- ~~-~~ Jesus met the world
 - ~~-~~ the flesh
 - ~~-~~ and the devil
 - ~~-~~ and conquered.
- ~~-~~ He also conquered death
 - ~~-~~ man's last great enemy.
- ~~-~~ By the Cross we are crucified
to the world.

optimist...29

~~For us, Christ "disarmed the~~
principalities ~~and powers~~ and
made a public example of them,
triumphing over them"
(Colossians 2:15, RSV)

~~Our authority~~ over the world is
the Name of Jesus Christ.

IV. The Coming Again of Christ

~~"Let not your heart be troubled"~~
~~(be of good cheer)~~

John 14

optimist...30

~~—~~ "Ye believe in God, believe also in me. ~~/~~ In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you.

~~/~~ "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John_14:1-3)

~~—~~ 11_Thessalonians_1:7-10

~~—~~ "And to you who are troubled rest with us, ~~/~~ when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

optimist...31

"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

✓ "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

✓ "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in 'that day'."

1. Choose you this day
~~2~~ Joshua
2. Why halt between two opinions?
3. No man can serve two masters
4. "Enter ye in at the strait gate:
for wide is the gate, and broad
is the way, that leadeth to destruction,
and many there be which go in thereat:
Because strait is the gate, and
narrow is the way, which leadeth
unto life, and few there be that
find it" (Matthew 7:13,14)

optimist...33

(1) two gates (7:13,14)

(2) two trees (7:15-20)

(3) two foundations (7:24-29)

BG/sw
11/12/81