These days are perilous, and concerning which Jesus says: "Men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after the things coming upon the earth." (Luke 21: 26) The Devil is the enemy of all men who try to do right. The Devil sets snares in which the unsuspecting persons are caught. It is written: "The fear of man bringeth a snare; but whoso puttehth his trust in the Lord shall be safe."—Proverbs 29: 25.

Recently persons have carried about banners bearing these words: "Religion is a snare." Is religion a snare of the Devil? The Word of Almighty God answers. To His people God gives this warning: "Neither shalt thou serve their [religious] gods; for that will be a snare unto thee." (Deuteronomy 7: 4-16) See also Judges 2: 2, 3; Psalm 106: 36.

_ENSNARED_

Economic conditions that have come in the past few years have brought great fear upon the commercial men of the world. They fear that they cannot hold the power over men which commerce has given them. More recently their fear has increased by reason of the activities of the radical element, which threatens to destroy commerce and profiteering in the land. Dictatorial rule in many of the nations has put fear in the hearts of the people of every nation, and they are looking for some way to safeguard their interests. Satan has taken advantage of his own wickedness and through his earthly agents is ensnaring sincere persons.

That fear of men or what men might bring to pass has led the commercial men right into the snare of the Devil, and their words now fully admit that fact. For the first time in the history of America commercial men insist that only religion can save the nation from disaster. In August, 1939, the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York released to the public their report, and the following is quoted from that report, to wit:

"At this time the state and nation find themselves in conditions and with different needs from those which our country has ever heretofore known, and our educational system must be adjusted to meet these present-day needs. This committee is convinced that the great lack in our homes and in our national life, is the lack of true, simple religion. ... If this nation does not maintain its religious foundation, its whole structure will fall. "When we say religious, we do not mean any particular church or sect. We do not want church differences mixed up in our schools; but we do want our scholars to appreciate and understand the importance of their following and making the most of the faith with which they are identified. We want them to know and live by the basic rules of life which each will find in his own religion. Integrity, kindly human understanding and true morals are found in each, and those our scholars must know and follow in their lives if they would build high characters and play the part we need them to play in the future of this nation."

_Will the United States cannot have or maintain a right system unless it is based on true religious principles, and, therefore, in spite of the fact that some hesitate to include religion in our educational program, we place it first._

_GOD AND BIBLE IGNORED_

If that committee had advised the study of the Bible, and the faithful service of Jehovah God, and Christ Jesus, it would have done well. Contrary thereto the report of the aforesaid committee is made of Jehovah God or Christ Jesus. Religion alone is stressed as the religion which will safeguard the people.

There are more than 200 religions practiced in America, and not one of those religions teaches or advocates God's announced remedy for the ill effects upon the peoples of earth. Many of the religions are under the direct control of demons and are designed to honor the Devil himself openly. In fact, all religion is based upon the worship of demons or things pertaining to demons. In the United States the main statement to this effect in the Bible, the aforesaid committee reports that religion is the hope of the nation. The Roman Catholic Hierarchy religious institution takes the lead in religious matters, and yet that institution has been diligent to keep the people in ignorance of the Bible, and that institution also continuously persecutes those who teach the Bible. Jehovah God publishes the fact that its principal doctrines are based upon the traditions of men and not upon the Scriptures. That Institution has been in operation for more than 1500 years, and has completely failed to instill in the people integrity and morality; and this every honest and sincere person knows. Adolf Hitler is a Catholic and a product of religion, and his regime for several years has had the support of the Roman Catholic religious Institution. It is well known that Hitler constantly consults the wicked spirits, and certainly Hitler and his religion are not teaching and cannot teach the youth morality, integrity, or even common decency.

_PERSECUTION_

Religion has always been the institution of persecution and crime. Jesus Christ was crucified by religiousists, and all His disciples suffered persecution at the hands of religiousists, and His true followers today likewise are persecuted.

The early settlers of American fled Europe because of religious persecution and settled in America, where they might worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. The men who founded the United States government embodied in the fundamental law the guaranteeing of the freedom of worship. The Roman Catholic religious institution has always fought against that part of the American Constitution. When Christians assemble peaceably to teach the Bible, and to worship God in spirit and in truth, the religiousists of the Hierarchy make a desperate attempt to break up such a meeting of Christians and to prevent the study and teaching of the Bible. That kind of religion could never instill in the minds of American youth integrity, morality or respect for the law.

The report of the aforesaid committee of the Chamber of Commerce discloses that the members of that committee are either ignorant of the Bible or purposely ignoring it, and for the Bible teachings they substitute religion. The Bible is the Word of Almighty God and is absolutely opposed to religion, assigning as the reason therefor that religion originated with the Devil. Christianity means to obey God's command, as set forth in the Bible. The Bible contains the word of God, and concerning it the Christians have said: "Thy word is truth." (John 17: 17) It is by the Word of God that the right principles of honesty, integrity and morality can be taught.
The clergy, who are the religious leaders, have not taught the people to have proper respect for the Word of God. They have substituted religion for the things that are contained in the Bible, God's Word. The Lord Jesus Christ instructs all His followers to pray to Jehovah God: "Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as in heaven." (Matthew 6:10) There is no religious institution or organization in America that teaches the people that God's kingdom is the only hope of the human family.

The apostle makes known that God's kingdom is the only hope of the human race. The committee of the Chamber of Commerce now urges the people to choose any kind of religion and teach it, and ignores the Bible. The word religion is condemned by the Bible. The word religion is used by the Devil's agents to embrace religion and to associate themselves with the ceremonies. In this connection mark the words written in the Bible: "They shall be snared into the religious snare. They are blind to the plain words of God and are following their blind leaders."-Isaiah 29:14-16.

The Devil's religion is seen that the members thereof are victims of the Devil. The clergy, who are the religious leaders, have turned the people away from God and Christ, and have substituted religion entirely for the Scriptures. The clergymen, fearing that they might not receive the honor which they desired, adopted religion instead of Christianity. They soon induced themselves to worship the Devil and Satan and taught the people that God and Christianity are the same thing; yet the Bible shows that religion is directly opposed to Christianity. The clergy, desiring to increase their own power and influence, formed commercial and political parties to induce the people to embrace religion and Christianity. They soon induced the people to make commercial men the chief of their flock. The commercial men were induced to embrace religion; and they feared to refuse to support it, because it might militate against their interest. They did not desire the principle of their flock, the political and commercial members, even as God foretold through His prophet, draw near to the Lord only by the words of their mouth, while their hearts are far removed from Him; and thus they are caught in the snare of religion. (Isaiah 29:10-13) The love of money and the power that money would give them induced the people to embrace religion. The commercial men were practicing religion, that they were in the midst of Mars' Hill, and said, "Ye men of Athens! in every way, how unusually reverent of the demons ye are, I perceive."—Rotherham translation.

In the American nation do you believe in honesty, integrity, and morality, desire to have their children taught religion, which is the worship of Satan and other demons, and while professing to worship God and His kingdom by Christ Jesus? Is the committee aforementioned wholly ignorant of the teachings of God's Word, or have they willingly ignored God's Word to draw the people into the snare of the Devil?

RELIGION COMMERCIALIZED

From the beginning of America this was considered a Christian nation. The Supreme Court of the United States long ago so held. Now it appears that the clergymen, or religious leaders, have turned the people away from God and Christ, and are practicing religion, that they might worship Jehovah in spirit and truth.

The Lord is now judging the nations, separating the "sheep" (Christians) from the "goats" (religionists). (Matthew 25:31-46) At the end of that judgment every person will be found either in the "sheep" or in the "goats." The American people, as well as the people of other nations, must now make their choice between religion and the kingdom of God. The American people are perverted from the path of following religion, which leads into the snare of the Devil, let the people devote themselves to Christianity, which means learning and obeying the Word of God and worshipping Almighty God in spirit and truth.

To further assist you to make the right choice you may arrange with the Watchtower Society to receive the booklets "Spiritual Snare" and "Racket" reproduced for you free.

Further facts and Incontrovertible Scripture proof in ENEMIES and SALVATION

The two latest books by Judge Rutherford
Clothbound, cover artistically embossed and lettered, boards quartered, illustrated in color, and with full index.

Both books mailed to you postpaid on your contribution of 50c, or either book alone for 25c. Send to:

WATCHTOWER
117 Adams St., Brooklyn, N. Y.