

**Bishop Bennett
Gives Thanksgiving
Message At Rotary Club**

November 23, 1945

"I am not sorry for the atomic bomb," declared Bishop Granville G. Bennett here Wednesday noon. It was the 9th year he has spoken at the club on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

"I think God gave us the atomic bomb and said 'Children, it will be well to remember the story about the tree and the apple. You will remember that it was forbidden fruit but they ate it and were thrown out of the garden.'

"That is a remarkable story and it has lived through the ages. In these days we now have another fruit from the tree of life-the atomic bomb. I was sorry to hear our President say we are going on making more bombs. What must the Russians think of that? What would we think if conditions were reversed? The bomb has eminent possibilities both for good and for evil. I am thankful for it today because I believe it will make us do a little more clear thinking about our responsibility as a nation than we would without it.

Speaking of those things for which he is thankful, Bishop Bennett said: "I am thankful for the men who fought this war and for those who won't come back. I am grateful to them. They paid a great price that I might live. I hope I may make myself more worthy of that price. This day is mine because somebody died to give it to me.

I am thankful for these United States and for the spirit it has shown in these last years. The world said we were soft and wouldn't fight. We showed the world we are not soft, that we would fight for our ideals. I hope this spirit can be maintained over the grueling years ahead. I am thankful that we have this opportunity to rectify those mistakes which were made at the end of the first World War. I am humbly thankful that the U.S.A has the right, the honor and the privilege to take its place in the most magnificent attempt yet to make international peace possible.

"I am thankful that ours is a democracy functioning through a republic. Democracy means the value of the individual person. Democracy says that individual men do count. It gives public opinion a chance to say what it thinks.

"I am thankful for God and in my prayers I say 'Sir, I'm much obliged to you for being there, for being where you are.' God has a purpose and that purpose makes our lives worthwhile. His purpose will never fail. I am thankful that I believe in Him, in my country and in this world. His plan will ultimately come into the heart of man and be worked out."

At the conclusion of his Thanksgiving Day message, Bishop Bennett was made an honorary member of the Rotary Club. The welcome speech was made by Secretary Howard R. Newman.

Guests included Frank L. Doran, chairman of the Budget Committee and the following Rotarians from Warren: Otto J. Alletag, Buell M. Buckingham, Leo Jacobson and Ralph W. Childs.