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UA3/1/4 Living Above the Rim

Henry Cherry
Western Kentucky University

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"Living Above the Rim"

"My boy, give good measure." These are the words of a noble father when he spoke to his boy who had gathered a load of apples and was ready to start to market to sell them. He took a half-bushel pail and, filling it to the rim, told the boy that was not good measure. He put on apples until they were above the rim and rolled off, at the same time admonishing the boy to give that kind of measure. It is the spirit of good measure, of putting apples above the rim and of a square deal that holds the civic, social, and industrial world together and gives every human being a chance to live, a chance to grow, and an opportunity to enjoy the blessings of life. It makes the home, builds and maintains the church, supports the schools, establishes libraries, endows hospitals, feeds the hungry, and promotes every effort that advances humanity.

It gave us America and Columbus, the Mayflower and the Pilgrims, Valley Forge and Washington, the Declaration of Independence and Jefferson, and the National Constitution and our forefathers. It prompted Paul Revere to make his midnight ride; it caused Putnam to leave his horse and plow in the field and go to the battlefield in defense of principles and ideals. It controlled Lincoln when he issued the Emancipation Proclamation; Roosevelt when he demanded civic, social, and industrial righteousness and spiritual affirmation; Wilson when he accepted the challenge of tyranny and autocracy and gave us the League of Nations at the cost of his life. It prompted four millions of our men to respond to the call of their country, not because they were individuals, but because they were Americans; not because they loved money and self, but because they lived "above the rim," believed in a square deal, and were willing to give their lives for principles and ideals.

I do not believe this country is in need of a larger intelligence so much as it is in need of a larger integrity; it is not in need of a larger ability so much as it is in need of a larger dependability. What we need is a civic, social, and industrial leadership that lives and operates "above the rim." What we need is a leadership that will put the spiritual above the material, the ideal above the dollar, clean politics above depraved politics, the country above political parties, and political parties above barter, trade, and commerce.