

# FIGHTING CHANCE

*John 8: 31-32*

*Proverbs 22: 3*

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## THE UNAFFORDABLE MISTAKE

Each of us makes mistakes in life. We do our best to avoid mistakes and to reduce the loss from those we do make.

Mistakes can be classified in various ways. A most important classification is into those we can *afford* to make and those we *cannot afford* to make. Since we cannot always avoid error and are often affected by the errors of other people, we sometimes purchase insurance against unaffordable mistakes or misfortunes.

For example, I purchase life insurance, because our six children must be protected from mistakes which might cost them their remaining parent. From the point of view of their wellbeing, mistakes which cost my life are *unaffordable*.

In the case of that life insurance, the duration of the policy must be long enough to protect them until they are all adults.

Civil defense is also insurance against unaffordable mistakes or misfortunes. It should protect our families, our country, and our civilization against annihilation by natural disaster or accidents, terrorism, or war which involve the chemical, biological, and nuclear technology of our time. These annihilations are certainly unaffordable to us.

Moreover, history teaches us that these are highly probable disasters. We cannot be sure to avoid them, but we can avoid their worst effects by means of civil defense insurance. Failure to buy that insurance is a mistake we cannot afford to make.

How long will we and our fellow Americans need civil defense insurance? We will need it permanently - forever - in terms of our personal and national lives. It is impossible to erase nuclear, chemical, and biological technology from human knowledge and affairs. We must learn to live with it, enjoy its benefits, and insure ourselves against its inherent risks.