

## THE KING'S HIGHWAY

### WHO OWNS THE WOOL?

Rev. J. B. Gambrell, D. D., LL. D.

In law and in reason the wool on sheep belongs to the owner of the sheep. If a man owned sheep, and sold them, he could not afterwards enforce a claim to the wool they might grow. The right in the wool follows the right in the sheep. The wool is an appurtenance growing out of sheep. God's people are God's sheep. They are his creation, by preservation, by redemption, by their own consent. There never was a better title to any property. This title holds the sheep and the wool. The sheep cannot hold property because they are property themselves. The wool is theirs only as their skins are theirs and their hands and feet by way of accommodation. The supreme title is in God and this title holds against all comers. Our times are in His hands. Whether one of us lives a day is wholly with God. How we shall die, as well as when, is with God. While men live, move and have their being in God, they must allow His right to do what He will with His own.

Not only are the sheep the property of the Creator, but the goats also. "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein." That title takes in everything. Rebellion can never overreach the Divine sovereignty over all men and everything. "The commandment is exceedingly broad" because the Divine authority is as limitless as creation. We have made a poor study of the Bible if these simple truths have not lodged themselves in our hearts. Conversion comes simply as a recognition of the Divine ownership in us. It is an acceptance, on our part, of our proper relation to our Creator and Redeemer.

During the great Hardshell struggle,

sheep, to say nothing of the hair of the goats—I say let God's right be settled, and we are at the opening of a new era in the world's history. The triumphant march of God's army is slowed up, waiting for us to settle the wool question. There can be but one adjudication, and that is, that whoever owns the sheep owns the wool also.

Shear the sheep? Yes, frequently and close. The pastors are the shepherds; and it is their business to feed the sheep, care for them, and shear them. A shepherd who neglects to shear the sheep ought to be turned off. He is an unfaithful servant of the Great Owner. Pastors need to face this question. They must face it, for the time is at hand when pastors will be judged according to their works, not by their dignity or their pretenses, but their work; and one of the works is to shear the sheep.

But the question has two sides: God's side and our side. Is it not hard on the sheep to shear them? Not at all. It is good for them every way. If sheep are not sheared they become unhealthy. How many of God's saints are surfeited with the things of this world! Their spirituality is smothered by a plethora of the things of this life. Many are sick because their lives have no outlet. Their affections are turned after their earthly possessions, and not set on things above. One of the best things a pastor can do for his people is to induce them to give liberally to the cause. He is doing the best thing for his people when he brings them to recognize their obligations to God in financial affairs.

So important in this matter in the churches and in the lives of the people, that it demands special and extremely earnest treatment. Some of the sheep must be cornered and crowded before they will submit to the process clearly taught in God's Word; but they must be sheared.

### IDOL WORSHIP.

I. D. Caswell.

While the Apostle Paul waited at Athens for Silas and Timotheus, his spirit was stirred up as he saw the city wholly given to idolatry; so it is to-day, when one observes so many worshipping idols of various kinds. Possibly there never was an age when there were more idol-worshippers than at the present.

Take, for instance, those who build so much on natural ability, and education, both of which are a great blessing when consecrated to God, but nevertheless generally prove a source of hindrance to the possessors thereof, inasmuch as highly educated, and gifted people frequently depend on their learning or natural cleverness, instead of waiting on God to direct them in their discourse. How few who are thus talented or privileged, keep low at Jesus' feet. God evidently foresaw this from the beginning, from the fact that He rarely chose a man which the world would call clever. When He wanted a man to lead His people out of Egyptian bondage, He chose Moses, a man slow of speech; when He wanted a general to lead the Israelites against the Midianites, He hunted up Gideon, who was the least of all his father's house. (Judges 6:15). Elisha was driving oxen before a plow; and David, whom we chose to be king, was a stripling attending his father's sheep. Once in the annals of Christian history God chose a large, fine-looking man to be king; but he compromised, backslid, and doubtless went to the devil.

We hear God say, "Not many wise man after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called, but God hath called the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and the base things of the

while another who has not been blessed with those natural gifts is left on the shelf. Still the cry is "More workers!" While a Church is using all the material within its reach, whether it is talent for platform work or to pray, sing, or do house to house visitation, God will raise up more.

Think of the multitudes all over our land who are Church worshippers. Simply because their parents were identified with a certain Church, they claim connection also; possibly their names were enrolled when they were children, but they know nothing of the new-birth. Hence they were never planted there by the Lord. Now, if they are children of the "bride" and have not a legitimate birth then are they bastards and not sons. Heb. 12:8. Generally children do not rise much above their parents; hence the reason why so few are willing to connect themselves to the "true bride," but go whoring after the world. James 4:4.

Again, many worship some preacher; possibly God used him as the instrument of their salvation, yet he is not the only instrument God has to perpetuate the work that has been begun in their hearts. "Paul may plant, and Appolis may water, but it is God who giveth the increase."

### HOME MISSION NEEDED.

About the easiest copy to get these days is that that pertains to foreign missions. It occurs to the writer that more should be said about the conditions at home. Heathenism is bad in foreign countries, but what about the heathenism that exists in America.

Recently the writer has been making some observations, which might arouse something of a home missionary spirit.

A week at the beach has added some to the stock of information al-

### KNOWING THE LORD.

Frank D. Brechill.

Knowing the Lord is rich afford,  
To sing His praise in one accord,  
Assured that He will hear your song,  
Victory give as you march along.  
Knowing the Lord is peace and joy,  
Giving the soul some rich employ,  
Feasting on Him the living bread,  
Standing a victor from the dead.  
Knowing the Lord is life from sin,  
Free from the cares of the world's dark

din;  
Fetters must fall at the Master's feet,  
When in His presence we daily meet.  
Knowing the Lord is serving Him,  
Helping souls that are gathering in;  
Scattering the Gospel far and wide,  
Over our land beyond the tide.  
Knowing the Lord is worship sweet,  
Adorning Him is praise complete;  
Knowing only one gracious King,  
As to the Rock of Christ we cling.  
Knowing the Lord is a life beyond,  
The cold, dark grave that on us dawn-

ed.  
Death's mighty powers are rent in  
twain,

Ever we praise that worthy name.  
Knowing the Lord is meeting friends,  
After our life on earth here ends;  
The blood-washed throng clasp hands  
again

On golden shores with heaven's clan.  
Knowing the Lord there is no death,  
Time does not end by our last breath.  
Life glows anew when our body dies  
Our souls then live beyond the skies.  
Knowing the Lord, knowing the Lord,  
Living each day by faith's own sword;  
O'ercoming power in the precious blood  
Prepared for God beneath the flood.

—Selected.

Self-indulgence is the besetting sin of the times; but if you long to be a strong, athletic Christian you must count the cost and renounce the things of the flesh. It will cost you the pull-