

The King's Highway.

And an Highway shall be there, and a Way, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness.

The wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.—Isaiah 35:8

VOL. XXIII. (New Series)

WOODSTOCK, N. B., FEBRUARY 29, 1912

(Semi-Monthly) No. 4

WEIGHTS.

By L. Milton Williams.

Let us lay aside every weight—Heb. 12:1.

How frequently we hear, when in a testimony meeting, persons tell how long ago since they began the Christian race, and yet how dead and dry and void of spiritual power they seem to be. Stereotyped prayers, that do not kindle nor awaken heaven-born desires for a closer walk with God. Somewhere we heard of an old lady who in giving in her testimony said, "Friends, forty years ago the fires of salvation were kindled in my heart, thank God, there is a spark left." The fire had been kindled forty years previous and after that elapse of time, only a spark remained. It would seem to us that the fire was all gone. Evidently the old lady had not made much development, or growth in grace. It would look to us as if instead of running forward, she had been backing off for some time. Alas, how true that is of great numbers who make a profession of salvation these days. Instead of a happy onward march, they have become cold and dead, with no signs of spiritual life about them, more than a perfunctory service. We greatly fear a great mistake was made in the time they supposed they started in the race. Holding to those customs, from which the apostle draws his illustration, we remember that the weights were worn until the hour to go upon the race track; then the weights were discarded and away dashed the runner. A lot of people imagine they are on the race course and running when, as certain as they exist, they are not. They make a profession and imagine they are Christians "running the race," when such is not the case. You ask me how I know and I reply, "Because they have not laid aside their weights." They still wear them, consequently they are not on the race track at all. Their weights still cling to them and while they profess to be running they absolutely make no progress whatever, and are like a company of soldiers making time, lifting their feet and setting them down in the same place. They make all the motions of one walking, or of one that is moving forward, but they remain in the same spot. They make a profession of salvation, but it is only profession. What a spectacle for Heaven and earth to look at, and hell to delight over. What is the matter? They have not laid aside their weights and are not in the race at all. The same apostle in his letter to the Colossians, third chapter and eighth verse, tells us of the things to put off. "But now ye also put off all these, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth." Let us look at a few of them.

ANGER. It does not say temper but anger. Sometime ago a lady was at the altar crying and having quite a struggle. A worker asked her what she was having such a struggle over, when between her sobs she cried, "I lost my temper," to which the worker replied, "Well, may you lose it and never find it." They both were wrong; she did not nor could not lose her temper. Sam Jones said, that temper was never spoken of in the Greek as a noun but as a verb to temper. A blacksmith takes a piece of steel that has lost its power to hold an edge and he has a double process of tempering it with fire and water so that it can be of service again. We all have a certain ten-

permanent or steadfastness about us to control us. God wants us to have the power about us to say yes to his will, or to say no to every temptation of the devil, but we lost our power to hold an edge away back there in the fall in the garden and our temperament or steadfastness, under the power and control of the "carnal mind," does not hold nor keep us steady and, under provocation gives way, and anger is born, and sin is committed. To get angry is to commit sin. Cain killed Abel in a fit of anger. Anger has caused multitudes of murders to be committed, broken up homes, caused suicides and helped to populate hell. When you got angry a murderer's sin lay at your heart's door. When you struck that child in anger the thing that caused murder was nigh your heart. It is not strange, that God in his infinite goodness takes away so many little ones these days. Looking down he sees the carnality rife in the hearts of the parents, and to save the little bodies from many a hard blow, struck by an angry hand he takes them away. You may go to the bureau drawer and take out that little blue shoe or some other little keepsake that once belonged to the little one, and when you do, the devil will always be on hand to bring up to your memory the blows you struck that child when angry. How much did you feel like praying when you were angry? What sharp sarcastic words sprang from your lips, words you have wished many times you had not uttered. Alas, what a heavy weight it is. How it has loaded you down and kept you cold in your heart and out of the race. Reader, have you put off your anger? Come, be as honest with yourself in answering this question as you will at the judgment. How long since you were angry? One Sunday afternoon, some years ago in a western town, at the close of a Bible reading on the subject of a clean heart, a lady came to us saying, "Brother Williams, I am deeply interested in this subject and would like for you to call on me at my home." We seldom do this but something in her face led us to say, "We will do so tomorrow afternoon." Taking a brother with us we went to the address she had given us. We found the home in a pleasant part of the town and everything denoted comfort and refinement. The lady herself answered our ring, but on opening the door we discovered her face red and eyes swollen from excessive weeping. She led the way to the parlor and after we were seated said, "I am deeply interested in your preaching and I felt that I must have a conversation with you. My husband has quite a large business, wholesale and retail grocer, but he is all wrapped up in his business and cares nothing about religion. I have been a professor and a member of the church for sixteen years. My husband used to attend church with me but has not done so for some time. I have been aroused by your preaching; my experience is very unsatisfactory. I get angry so often and do so many things I ought not to do, things that a Christian should not do. Sometimes when angry I punish my children very severely and afterwards am very sorry and spend much time in prayer for forgiveness and sometimes have to ask the children to forgive me."

And as she proceeded we learned the reason of her swollen eyes and face. Her husband seldom came home for his noonday meal until one p. m. but that morning he had come much earlier.

Some of the clerks had gone off on a spree and had not returned that morning. Orders were pouring in and to facilitate business matters he had sprung into the delivery wagon and made some deliveries himself. Being in that neighborhood about eleven-thirty, to save time, he rushed in and wanted his dinner at once. Of course she did not have it prepared, but crowded with business cares and unsaved also, he had spoken quickly and wanted it in a hurry. She had answered rather sharply and the retorts flew back and forth getting sharper, until a good old-fashioned family row was on, which resulted in the husband leaving the house, slamming the door behind him, going back to his business without his dinner, and she had taken a good two-hour's cry and had not gotten over it when we arrived. While she was talking to us a pair of chubby twin boys were playing on the floor. At just that stage of her story something happened on the floor between the boys and the scene of the morning was enacted over, only on a minor scale. One little fellow, becoming very angry, let fly some of the play things at his brother which, had it struck him in the face would have disfigured the little fellow for life. Frightened, he sprang up and with his angry brother in hot pursuit around the room and over the furniture they went. The mother caught hold of the angry boy but he struggled, kicked and tried to bite her. She put him into an adjoining room and locked the door, but one might have thought a dozen boys all intent on smashing through the door were in there, by the noise he made. She took him out to the kitchen quieting him with a lump of sugar and then threatened him with future punishment, when the preacher had gone. She returned to the parlor trying to make some excuse and saying she would punish him for his conduct. We said, "You have no right to punish that child for doing the things he sees you, his mother, do. You have sat there and explained how you when angry have punished the child until condemned for your harshness have had to ask, both he and God to forgive you. Only this day you have run his father out of the house and without his dinner, have sent him back to his business in a very unhappy state of mind, and all this over the professing of being a Christian, a Christ-like individual. No wonder your husband does not believe in religion, and refuses to attend church with you. Your boy is a witness to your actions, and does as he sees you do. Your husband has no confidence in you as a Christian nor the Christianity that you profess. Sister, before you can get a dean heart you will need to cry to God to forgive you your sins and be converted. The Bible says, 'He that committeth sin is of the Devil,' and that 'he that is born of God doth not commit sin.' No one can remain God's child and do as you have done this morning." Alas, what numbers there are professing to be God's children and getting angry over and over and still professing to be "running the race" when the plain truth is they have not yet "laid aside every weight." What a heavy weight anger is. Reader have you laid it aside? A crowd of witnesses are watching your every action, listening to every word.

WRATH. How often we repeat the prayer, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us." If God should answer that prayer, what a crowd there would be who

make a profession of Salvation that would never find a pardon from their sins. Turn to Mark, eleventh chapter and twenty-sixth verse. It is Jesus that is speaking about forgiving those that trespass against us. "But and if ye do not forgive, neither will your father which is in heaven forgive your trespass." Turn again to Matthew fifth chapter and forty-fourth verse, "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them that despitefully use you, that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." Reader, do you do that? Come, honestly down in your own heart answer this question; do you love your enemies and pray for those that despitefully use you? Have you no hard feelings in your heart towards anybody? No matter if they did wrong you, you cannot harbor a hard feeling in your heart towards them and retain the smile and approval of God. Wrath is a weight that will keep you off the race track and send you to the pit. It will have to be "laid aside" before you can have God's smile.

We were conducting a series of evangelistic meetings in a large beautiful church in an eastern city. The pastor's wife had a very serious look on her face, and at the close of an afternoon service, came to us with the question, "Brother Williams, what is the matter with me? When we first entered the ministry, I delighted to assist my husband in the work of the church and lead prayer-meetings and sing and testify and enjoyed myself, but for eight years I have never opened my lips in public to pray or testify. In fact I feel like I had lost all the salvation I ever had. Do tell me what is the matter?" We replied, "Sister, if you once knew God, than something happened back there that God could not smile upon and you have lost his approval." "How shall I find out what it was?" she asked. "Don't you know of anything?" "No, what shall I do?" to which we replied, "Guess," and left her. That evening she came again saying, "Do you believe this is the trouble?" and then proceeded to explain, "about eight years previous on a former charge a woman cruelly slandered my husband. It was so bad that we were removed to another conference. Of course, I felt very bitterly towards her. About two years passed when I received a letter from her saying she was very sorry for what she had done and begged my forgiveness." We quickly asked, "What did you do?" "Why I replied to her letter and said I would forgive her, but I hoped she would suffer for it as long as she lived." We made no reply or comment and finally she asked, "What shall I do about it?" We replied, "You have been so good at guessing, try it again." A couple of days afterwards she came in, her face radiant. She held a letter in her hand. After a strong, bitter struggle she had written to the woman, confessing the bitterness she held in her heart for all those years and asked for forgiveness. It had been freely granted and the smile of God had broken over her soul. The wrath was "laid aside" and she got on the race track immediately.

How about it, reader? Have you a bitter feeling in your heart against some one? That weight will have to be laid aside, before you can enter the race. God will not smile upon you, so long as you hold onto it.

MALICE. What an unkind cruel thing malice is, and the misunderstanding-

ings it has caused will never be rightened this side of the judgment; it is a weight that exposes so rapidly that one does not need to travel far to find it. In almost every community there are persons that cannot bear to hear another well spoken of, nor praised more highly than themselves. THEY must receive the lion's share of the credit for what is accomplished. Woe be to the unlucky person that happens to receive more praise than themselves. The Scribes and Pharisees, from the high priest down, were loaded with it. They could not bear to hear Jesus well spoken of and when the poor laid their garments for him to sit on, and strewed the palm branches in the way before him, they did their best to turn the people away from him and set about to cause his death, and the same deadly, damnable spirit is as much in evidence today as it was then. They were professors of religion, and looked upon themselves as the favorites of God, and there are those today who make a high and loud profession of salvation, loaded down with the same murderous spirit. How many times, our confidence in some one has been shaken by some one who was unable to keep their malice to themselves. We have remarked "what a beautiful testimony sister A—gave last night, only to hear the reply, y-e-s Sister A—is quite a good talker, but —. They need go no further. That but has exposed the malice in their soul. Again "My, what a prayer brother B—offered last evening, and then hear some one say, y-e-s Brother B—is quite powerful in prayer, but some of our people think,—Ah, they need go no further, for no matter how beautifully Sister A—may testify, or Brother B—pray, we find it difficult to listen to either of them without wondering about that but, or thinking what it is that the people think. The Bible teaches us that we should speak evil of no man. It says, 'let evil speaking be put away from you with all malice.' Eph. 4:31, and again in James 4:11, "speak not evil one of another." It is right that evil doing should be exposed and evil doers brought to light, but to create a false impression or misrepresent an innocent person, or to talk about them in a manner calculated to convey a wrong idea of their lives or actions, is a sin as black as hell, and will damn the one that does it, unless such a one confesses their wrongs and gets to God and finds a pardon for their great wrongs. Dear reader, if you have been guilty of such, if you have been carrying around this awful weight, I beg you to cast it aside at once, and run to Jesus for His pardoning grace.

BLASPHEMY. God the Father, sent Jesus Christ the Son into the world to save man from sin. Man was God's greatest piece of handiwork. The greatest glory is, that the Son succeeds in the work that the Father sent Him to do, save man from sin. Man is not saved from sin until saved from all sin. Jesus said, "ye shall be my witnesses." A witness testifies to what he KNOWS. We love to hear men testify to what God has done for them. It honors the Father and glorifies the Son, for it shows forth the love of God, for a lost world, and exemplifies His power to redeem man from his fallen estate. But where profession is made, and the daily life does not correspond with the profession, it dishonors God and robs Jesus of His glory. To profess that Jesus has saved

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