

The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness—Isa. 35-8.

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REPROVE, CONVINCE, CONVICTION.

"And When He is Come, He Will Reprove the World of Sin And of Righteousness and of Judgment."

This is the mission of the Holy Spirit to the world or the sinner, as distinguished from his mission to the disciples of Christ, as given in John 16-8 and 13.

This appeals to us as the Holy Spirit's fair dealing with intelligent men.

1st That of reproof for their sin of unbelief—man's greatest general or universal sin. This sin is so general that the expression seems most fitting. "He shall reprove the world of sin," and in verse 9 designates the particular sin. "Of sin because they believe not on me."

As the only begotten Son of God.

As the only Redeemer,

As the only name given under heaven whereby we must be saved.

And we believe that the Holy Spirit reproveth men so effectively that men know that the reproof is from God, and that conviction is so fastened upon them that they are never able to shake it off. Men may not know that it was the Holy Spirit that burned this conviction in their souls, but this text reveals the secret.

2nd Conviction—An Evidence of God's Great Love and Mercy.

This clearly defined conviction which follows men over land and sea. The Psalmist speaking of the omnipresence of the Holy Spirit, He said, "Whither shall I go from thee Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?"

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.

"Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee."—Psalm 139-7 to 12.

3rd The Holy Spirit Convinces Men.

While we know that Jesus said to his disciples, "And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

Even the spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him."—John 14-16-17.

And St. Paul wrote the Corinthians—"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."—I. Cor. 2-14.

But receiving the Holy Spirit or the gifts he imparts are the great inheritance of God's children who are born again, or regenerated by his grace. But yet God convinces intelligent reasoning men by the Holy Spirit, either by his direct light, or through the Word, or through the evangelist, or preacher, or lay-worker, or whatever agency chosen of him, that they are sinners, that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour, and he is able and willing to save them, their pardon is ready for them if they will accept it, and being free moral agents, possess the power of choice, and there is ample evidence to prove that great numbers of people are convinced of these great truths, evidenced by the fact that they associate themselves with christian people, and accept of offices in the churches, and become supporters of the churches, and have a voice in the business of the churches, even to the calling, retaining, or changing of the pastor, and the election of the officers of the churches. But have not surrendered themselves to Christ through the requirements of his gospel, and when they are asked if they are followers of Christ according to his gospel, will frankly say: "I am convinced that it is all right, but I have not publicly made a profession nor united with the church, but I always help along the good work."

They are convinced and it is to be feared that when the great Judgment breaks upon their mind, they tremble on account

of the conviction that awakens within them, of their unprepared state.

Thus the five foolish virgins slept in their association with the five wise virgins, until the cry went forth, "The Bridegroom cometh." Then they awoke to the awful result of their neglect and the fact that their light had gone out, and they were too late, and the door of opportunity was closed.

God's great love and mercy had kept conviction upon them and renewed it whenever they read the Bible, or listened to a real gospel sermon, "preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven."

There is no wonder that St. Paul asked the unanswerable question, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?"

Men are Reproved, Convinced, Convicted. But they must settle the question themselves and believe and obey the gospel of Christ to be saved.

When Moody was conducting his first great evangelistic campaign in London, Dean Stanley, a prominent churchman, told him that he had heard the great labor leaders say that the clergy failed to interest and attract people in proportion as they failed to preach about popular questions, such as labor and capital, social reform and science; that if they would frankly deal with these subjects the people would be more ready to hear what they had to say about religion and morals.

To which Moody replied: "We tried your plan, Mr. Dean, for a whole year in Chicago. We got the best thinkers and speakers in America, an crowds came to hear them. But there was not a single conversion. Then we got what you might call a fool to preach Jesus Christ, and hundreds were converted in a very short time. Let me tell you, sir, we must preach a living Saviour for lost sinners; nothing else will do."

Of course nothing else will do! We need no other message than that. We want no other message than that. Jesus now, and Jesus forever!—Sel.