

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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To Them That Are Sanctified, By God The Father. And Preserved in Jesus Christ, And Called."

Thus the epistle of Jude opens a quite unique, world wide and for all time, message to continue until it is declared that time shall be no more.

We are impressed deeply with many things said by this servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James.

1st To whom the message is addressed.

Two men and women who were living at that time, without earthly distinctions mentioned, and yet they were a distinct class of people whose distinguishing characteristic was a wonderful spiritual transformation that made them distinct from all other people and yet made them more real; and their lives more transparent than any other people, and imparted to them a power that enabled them to do things which other people emphatically declare to be impossible; and that they are unable to do, viz.: they are enabled to 'render evil for evil to no man, to Rejoice evermore; to Pray without ceasing; In everything to give Thanks; to Quench not the Spirit; to not despise prophesyings—Testimonies—to prove all things and hold fast that which is good, and Abstain from all appearance of evil.'"—Sanctified by God the Father.

Another and most wonderful characteristic of these people was that they were preserved in Jesus Christ.

So kept by divine power that they abode in the love of Jesus Christ, delighted to do his will in all things, and at all times, and in all his ways. They "dwelt in the secret places of the Most High, and abode under the shadow of the Almighty."

There are many people who are so fearful about taking a step in the Christian life who say: "I'm afraid I could not keep it," not knowing that to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and obedient to him, that they will be preserved in Jesus Christ—"And called." Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." "For God has not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."

2nd Mercy Unto You, And Peace, and Love be Multiplied.

Here is where many people get mixed. Some get the idea that when an increase is mentioned that it means—to be more consecrated, or deeper sanctified, or more completely preserved—But please note what he said—Mercy unto you, and peace and love be multiplied. We need the mercy of God always, not because of premeditated or intentional, or known sin—but because of ignorance, and human frailty to strengthen and help in times of need, and infirmity, and temptations, that we do not fully understand. We also need additions of peace to meet the untold and numerous phases and labours, when our nerves and physical and mental powers, are overtaxed, and an increase of love that flows from the great divine source of love, is a proof of the normal condition of abiding in Christ.—This is what holiness people sometimes mean when they are praying for more power. We may expect, rightfully expect, grand incomings, to not only meet our needs, but to overflow, when the "windows of heaven are opened," and the poured-out blessings, will become grand facts in our experience.

But there are conflicts to be met.

"It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith, which was once delivered unto the saints."

This is still, and increasingly needful. And here we need to distinguish between contending earnestly for the faith, and being contentious.

This is a day of tremendous compromise, and confusion in religious teaching.

Men are contending for their ideas by every means, flooding the country with literature of all kinds, artfully written, and using every device, and any device that will attract attention. But "the faith"—that brings pardon to the guilty sinner and purity to the diligent seeking believer, and divine light to the darkened understanding—and salvation from sin and its awful consequences still exists, and our Lord will find it here when he comes again.

But it is the duty of them that are

sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ to "contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints" against those who "have crept in unawares"—The awful character sketch and destiny of which are given in this epistle of Jude. The description is exceedingly vivid. And the most shocking feature of the situation was that these men were still among God's people. He says: "These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you; feeding themselves without fear; clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame, wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever." And so this awful description continues to the 19th verse inclusive. "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep ourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

And of some have compassion, making a difference.

And others save with fear pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

The benediction—"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."

This latter part of the epistle comforts the child of God, and teaches how to live, and how to pray, and how to work.

Building themselves up in their most holy faith.

Keeping themselves in the love of God.

Praying in the Holy Ghost.

Looking unto Jesus.

And earnestly work in saving others, hating even the stains of sin—yes more—the garments that are spotted.