

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.

VOL. XXXI.

MONCTON, N. B., APRIL 15, 1920.

NO. 19

Take Heed Therefore Unto Yourselves,

And to all the Flock Over Which the Holy Ghost Hath Made You
Overseers, to Feed the Church of God, Which He
Purchased With His Own Blood.

This is the Apostle Paul's parting message to the Elders of the Church at Ephesus, which to the writer is second only to the great prayer of our Lord and Saviour recorded in John 17th Chapter.

And as we endeavor to take this great heart and soul burden of the Apostle for the Ephesian Church, which he had begotten through the Holy Spirit, we hesitate in the presence of this great charge, as we apply it to ourselves as pastors, and officers of our churches, especially so at this particular period of our life and work. Knowing the situation within, and the surroundings without. We are deeply impressed with this entire message, and its great importance, an only wish that all of our brethren would take it into prayerful consideration and personal application.

THE MESSAGE

1st, take heed unto yourselves—We are apt to overlook ourselves while we preach to others. **We should not spare ourselves** when we are raising the standard for others. Take frequent looks "into the mirror of the perfect law of liberty." **Self-examination by the word.** Under the light of the Holy Spirit in prayer. Not only from the standpoint of rightness in the submission of our will to the will of God, but as servants of God, its great responsibility in the best possible efficiency, "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." Goodness is essential, but all you can truthfully say of some is that they are good. "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith." Prove yourselves, at all points.

Take heed always to yourselves.

2nd, Take heed to all the Flock.—Not only those most prominent and attractive to us, but **all the flock.** Neglect none, all includes every one.

To do this, the man of God has no idle moments to stand about and talk. My! how many of us, including the writer,

feel that we have failed at this point. How few can say, with Paul, "I am pure from the blood of all men," from the viewpoint of neglected care for all the flock. Well, let us begin now. To do it we will have to forgo our ease, and trifling physical indispositions. Over which we have excused ourselves. When if we examined ourselves we would have discovered a bit of condemnation of conscience. Then we must take heed in protecting the flock from false teachers. False charity frequently comes in at this point. The influence of others, that we do not wish to offend may cause us to permit men to sow seed that produces bad effect upon the flock entrusted to our care, indolence on the part of the pastor is culpable before God. There is a culpable softness in some who think holiness is softness and sickly sweetness. The very fact that the Holy Ghost places you and I as overseers over the flock, he will certainly hold us responsible for that flock. This is a responsibility too tremendous, to lightly assume. The protection of the flock from designing and destructive men, so far as in our power, is included in the message.

3rd To Feed the Church of God.

This is also a most serious duty laid upon the ministry and the present situation is staggering to thoughtful and truly spiritual minded servants of God, and it would require a large book to deal with this phase of the work.

When we consider all the time that is really devoted to serious consideration of the word of God, apart from all that is theoretical, speculative, historical and philosophical and material phases of religion. It almost entirely excludes the real fundamental essentials of the salvation of the souls of men and the spiritual food which produces spiritual growth in righteousness and true holiness, and it almost seems that the time has come when men will not endure sound

doctrine, and heap to themselves teachers who will tickle their ears with that which "pleases their fancies as to what constitutes religion.

But here is an appeal from the Apostle that should be heeded by every man who feels the responsibility as a true servant of God, "to feed the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood."

And there is no safeguard so effectual against error as the word of God. To do this a man must first become a partaker of the fruit. May God turn our minds to these great responsibilities that we may see that little revival flurries of a few days occasionally does not constitute the work or meet responsibility of the church and ministry.

READ THE BIBLE.

"Read the Bible and it brings you into the association of the best people that ever lived. You stand beside Moses, and learn his meekness; beside Job and learn his patience; beside Abraham and learn his faith; beside Daniel, and learn his courage to do right; beside Isaiah, and learn his fiery indignation toward the evil-doer; beside Paul, and catch something of his enthusiasm; beside Christ, and you feel His love."—Spurgeon.

LIVE WITH HIM!

A living Christ, dear friends! the old ever new, ever blessed Easter truth! He liveth; He was dead; He is alive forevermore. O that everything dead and formal might go out of our creed, out of our life, out of our heart today! He is alive! * * * O that we could only lift up our heads and live with Him; live new lives, high lives; lives of hope and love and holiness!—Phillips Brooks.

"People who leave nothing, get nothing; neither in this life nor that which is to come."