

## "THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST."

Rev. L. J. Alley—Hebrews :1-2.

Paul in his letter to the Hebrews is trying to set before them the great advantages of the new covenant, but it is surprising to see how slowly those minds that had been so long in the bondage of the carnal commandments, grasped the new light. In the preceding chapters we read a great deal about Christ as the Messiah and high priest, and in the chapter of the text we have a summary in the words of the text, "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum. We have a great high priest."

The Jews had long waited for the promised Messiah. In vain had they looked for their Star to appear to tell them of the king and ruler. For years now had Jerusalem been in the hands of Rome, and the proud Jew was anxiously waiting the time of redemption. Had the Messiah come in kingly glory he would have been royally welcomed. But God had a greater purpose in view. He never was in favor of their earthly monarchy. Had God had His will worked out in their lives he would have governed his chosen people with a sceptre of righteousness. eHb. 1:8-9.

There seems to have been a falling away from the order of God's will for we read that Elias must first come and restore all things. Malachi says I will send you Elijah the prophet before that day of the Lord come, and he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. Jesus said of John the Baptist, "This is Elias that was to come. John taught a change of heart, and that is exactly what our high priest came to do. He says in Hebrews 8:10, I will put my laws into their minds and write them in their hearts, and I will be to them a God and they shall be to me a people. So beloved, let me repeat. God's sceptre was never intended to have been as they made it, but to be from the heart and the mind filled with the laws of God.

Some times God allows us to have our own way. Israel was given over to their own lust and perished in the wilderness. When they were settled in the promised land they desired a king, as we have been talking about, and in spite of God's protest he finally gave them Saul. Perhaps those ages so dark and sinful might have been shortened and the Messiah hastened if God had had his way.

A priest is a mediator between God and man. Jesus ever liveth to make intercession for us. He is our great high priest.

There is in our land today certain classes of folk who claim to be the right church and the only right church. Such people make bold their claim to the pulpit as having been called of God as was Aaron. They tell us no one has a right to preach the gospel unless a priest calls him. I read in the 7th of Hebrews that Christ was called not as was Aaron but after order of Melchisedec. Paul argues that if the Aaronic priesthood had made a perfection there would never have been a change. He says it is evident that Christ sprang out of Judah of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood, and it is

far more evident that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest. Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec, and pray tell us who called him but God. Who shut their eyes and blindly pointed about the audience finally letting their finger rest upon him saying, thou art called of God. The Scripture quoted above is found in Hebrews 7:11-17. Read it for yourselves. And as for being called as was Aaron read the 5th chapter, verses 1-4 and see for yourself that Paul is speaking about the high priest who offered sacrifices of blood for the sins of the people. Surely he must be called of God as was Aaron.

Let us notice the benefits of their new priesthood.

(1) An uttermost salvation. Heb. 7:25. As far as sin has gone salvation extends. What sin has done salvation undoes.

(2) A possibility of perfection. Heb. 7:19. The law made nothing perfect but the bringing in of a better hope did; by which we draw nigh to God. The scripture says draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you. Holiness is the result of the union between God and man. Sin caused the separation. Holiness draws us to Him.

(3) The putting away of sin. Heb. 9-26.

(4) The laws of God written in the heart. Heb. 8:10.

Hitherto they had been written on tables of stone and were forgotten, but now on the mind and in the heart, always before us.

Let us notice some things about the two priests.

Made priest at the age of thirty. It was at this age the Jesus began His ministry.

The high priest went behind the blue curtain to make intercession for the people.

Jesus has gone behind the blue curtain of the skies and is there to night making intercession for lost humanity.

When the ceremony was finished the high priest came out from behind the curtain.

The word says as the lightnings flash in the heaven so shall it be in the coming of the Son of Man. He is coming from behind the blue curtain some of these days. The heavens shall be rolled back as a scroll.

Are we ready to meet Him? Now is the day of salvation.

Beals, Maine, Dec. 14.

## THANKS!

I wish through the Highway to thank the people of the Norton circuit for their kindness to me and for special remembrances at this season of the year. I send New Year greetings to all the Highway readers.

G. B. TRAFTON.

"Lord, send a revival, Lord, send a revival, Lord, send a revival, and let it begin in me," is an old gospel refrain with a great truth. The only way in which anyone can do anything to promote a revival of religion, is by beginning in one's own heart and life."

## OBITUARY

Mrs. Nathaniel Beal

Mrs. Nathaniel Beal departed this life on Dec. 24th, 1920, at her home, North Head, Grand Manan. The deceased was 57 years and six months old. She had suffered for over five months from paralysis.

Mrs. Beal had made profession of faith in Christ some years ago and was of the Baptist faith.

She leaves to mourn their loss her husband and one son, about twelve years of age; three sisters and a number of other relatives. Service took place at the home at 2 p. m., Dec. 27th. Interment was made at the cemetery at North Head, Rev. F. T. Wright officiating.

Estella M. Gordon.

Died at Seal Cove, Grand Manan, Estella, daughter of Hamilton and Ida Gordon, aged 1 year and 3 weeks. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. O. Morse in the absence of the pastor.

We loved her, but she left us,  
Like some sweet vision nigh  
That early came and blest us,  
Then passed forever by.  
But in your mystic bowers,  
Unshaded by a care,  
She's resting 'mid the flowers  
That bloometh ever there.

John Leslie White.

At his home, Wednesday night, Dec. 22nd, at Lower Hainsville, John L. White passed away from this life in the 69th year of his age. He had been in failing health for some time. He leaves to mourn his wife and two sons, Frank M. and Arleigh, at home, one daughter, Mrs. Dolph E. Nixon, of Hartland, one brother, Medley, of Burt's Corner; and two sisters. The funeral was held in the church at Lower Hainsville, Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the writer officiating. He died trusting in the merits of the blood of Jesus Christ.

P. J. TRAFTON.

## DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE.

The day of miracles is not past. The impossible is being done every day in the week. A contemporary last week tells the old and amusing story of a hard chase of a woodchuck. Pressed sorely by dogs, and cut off in his retreat at every point, at last the animal was said to have climbed a tree to escape. A farmer-boy, listening to the story, interposed with the statement that a woodchuck could not climb a tree. "Aye," said the narrator, "I know a woodchuck cannot climb a tree, but **this one** had to." Normally and in the ordinary there are a great many things we cannot do, but we can do them just the same. Necessity takes us out of the normal and the ordinary sometimes. And there is no necessity like a moral necessity. We cannot do a thing until God's great thought reaches and grips, and then we arise and do it. When the divine necessity is on a man he is something more than a man and it is easy to do the impossible when a man is a man plus God.—The Christian Guardian.