

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. XXXIV.

MONCTON, N. B., JAN. 31, 1925.

NO.

“Jesus Locating Our Enemies.”

Mrs. Loren Wilson, Dec 24

“And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.”

H. Smith Dow.

In the tenth Chapter of Matthew we read that Jesus called unto him his twelve disciples, or apostles, and sent them forth on their divinely appointed mission of preaching His gospel. And as He sends them forth He warns them of the fact that they will meet with much opposition to their work which will often come from unexpected sources. So in our text He points out one of these sources, or helps them to locate their foes. If we have foes of any kind it is quite necessary that we locate them before we can grapple with them. The boys who came back from the Great War tell us that the German sharpshooters did them much harm because they kept out of sight of our men and could not be located. If a man is sick the physician will first need to locate the cause of his trouble before he can prescribe a remedy. Notice, if you will, please, the place where Jesus locates this foe. It is an internal one, or of a man's own household. Some one has said that every institution or cause is injured more by its professed friends than by its outward enemies. I remember reading some statements made by the Hon. David Lloyd George in one of his speeches during the Great War. He said: “Gentlemen, we are fighting three foes—Germany, Austria, and rum, and the greatest of these is rum.” He realized that rum was the greatest foe because it was an internal one. Historians tell us that the reason why some nations, such as Rome and Spain, collapsed, which were at one time great world powers, was because of their own sins, such as drunkenness and immorality, which ate away the vitals of their national life and so weakened them that they fell easy victims to their enemies. Then what shall we say when we apply this truth to the church? Is not the cause of Christ hindered from making progress more by its professed friends—or church members—than it is by its enemies on the outside? The Apostle Paul likens the church to the human body and says: “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, or if one member be honored all the members rejoice with it.” So when members of the Church or society do not live according to the requirements of their creed they dishonor their church and bring it into discredit

with those whom the church is trying to get saved. Many good folk in our so-called holiness churches perhaps do not realize that when they do not go on unto perfection, or receive the baptism with the Holy Ghost to cleanse their hearts from all sin (as they promise to do when they join the church) that they are failing to function and are not in a normal spiritual condition for a member of a holiness society. So, like the human body, the church suffers because one or more of its members fail to do their work. Some people seem to think that if they work in the church and give of their money to support the cause they can be excused from seeking and obtaining and also retaining the experience of holiness, but, let me say to you, beloved, there is absolutely nothing that you can give to God or His cause as a substitute, for God has called us unto holiness. Of course the amount that the body will suffer because of a delinquent member depends on the importance of the position which that member holds in the body. For instance, a person may lose one of his fingers and the body would suffer as a result, but not as much as if he lost a hand or arm or a more important member. Hence the responsibility of each member is commensurate with the importance of the office that he or she holds. Then we see that the office of pastor is a very responsible one indeed, for he is the head of the society to which he has been called and of which he has been made overseer by the Holy Ghost (Acts 20:28.) No wonder that the Apostle Paul admonishes the pastors, “to take heed to themselves and to all the flock of God, to feed them, over which the Holy Ghost has made them overseers.” Notice he says, “take heed to yourselves.” Now, to return again to our thought of the pastor being the head or perhaps the most responsible member in the body, you can see how greatly the whole body must suffer when the head fails to function properly. So the head, having eyes and ears and a mouth, must watch, and listen (to the voice of God) and warn the body of what he has seen and heard. He must enjoy the experience of full salvation himself and constantly keep the standard of holiness before the people by both precept and example; he must keep spiritual and maintain a lively interest in the spiritual welfare of the people and also in every phase of church work both in the home and foreign fields. A body may live long after it has lost a

finger or hand or arm but it will soon die if the head dies—God said there shall be like people like priest (Hosea 49:). So you see beloved that when the pastor fails to discharge his duty toward God and the church he may become its greatest foe.

Then again in a multitude of cases this statement is literally true. That is when those in our own homes those whom we love and perhaps who love us exercise such an influence over us that it hinders us from doing what God would have us do, they surely become our foe. Rudyard Kipling the Anglo-Indian poet seemed to realize this when in his poem called “If” he says—“If neither foe nor lovink friend can hurt you.”

Sometimes God calls a man to the gospel ministry and his wife, who is supposed to be his loving friend, opposes him so strenuously that he does not respond to God's call but disobeys God and often goes back into sin. Is that wife not an enemy to her husband's most important interests? Or, if a husband interferes with his wife's duty to God, he becomes her enemy, and the same truth applies to parents and children when parents indulge their children in things which they know are wrong and do not properly restrain them. God destroyed Eli and his house because his sons did wrong, and he restrained them not, so Eli was an enemy to his sons and the son in turn were the enemies of their father. And, finally, let us narrow this truth down to our individual life, for God's truth not only grapples with the sins of nations, churches, societies and homes, but also with the sin of the heart of the individual, for, after all has been said, nations and churches, societies and homes are all made up of individuals, and their troubles can only be corrected in so far as the sin of the individual heart is dealt with. The only obstacle to one's salvation is the sin of his own heart. Oftentimes, those who do not enjoy victory over temptations try to excuse themselves for their defects by laying the blame to someone else who did wrong. Now, beloved! Other people may hinder us from doing all we want to do for God and they may persecute us and even kill us as many in past ages have made others suffer for righteousness' sake, but only that foe within my own breast can break my communion with my God. Martin Luther said, “I fear the pope of self more than the pope of Rome.” He evidently had located his foe.

(Continued on Page 5)