

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. 3.

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..... SERMON

By Seth C. Rees

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away."—John 16:7.

These words of Jesus are addressed to His disciples only. They were never spoken to sinners. This is not a message to the world. Most of the things He ever said were spoken to the saints. He said a few awful, startling things to sinners; but the deepest, richest and sweetest things that He ever said were to His very own. He had conversed with them a little about going away, but they did not fully understand, and were just beginning to take it to heart.

He had spoken to them of "Another," Who was to come; but they were not greatly interested. He now says, "I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart I will send Him unto you."

This was the greatest promise ever made to the Church, and unfolds some of the profoundest truths, and the most glorious matters of Christian Experience. The philosophy of redemption and the regime of the Church were all fixed at Calvary. But the disciples were commissioned and commanded to do the impossible; not merely the improbable, but the impossible. They were commanded to become world travellers, without money. They were commanded to revolutionize the thought and conduct of this world; to change the religions of the world. They were to be instructors, without letters or literary honors. They were commanded to teach that which they themselves had never been able to practice. They were to stand before kings and lords without parchments. There was not a single crowned head of ecclesiastical body at their backs. Jesus knew very well that they never would accomplish their undertaking without the Holy Ghost.

If they needed the Holy Ghost, how much more do we need Him. The darkness is growing thicker; the flesh is active; carnality is in the saddle; human wisdom lays all the plans; the devil has joined the Church and is as religious as a monk. The chill of death is settling down on everything about us; our youth are turning from rectitude and from the path of our fathers to the pleasures of the world and to hell. The Holy Ghost was never more needed than He is in this hour.

I. The first advantage to which Jesus must have referred when He said "It is expedient for you that I go away" is the fact that the Holy Ghost furnishes to those who receive Him, the highest possible spiritual illumination to be known this side of Heaven. He does not give us a new Bible, but He makes the Bible new to us. We do not need a New Book. The Old Book is in authority forever. The Holy Ghost will illuminate the Bible so that we can understand enough to get through and make the landing in Heaven. He is the only light. There is no "Latter Day Saints" Light. There is no light in Christian Science. There is no third blessing light. He may increase His light in us as we walk on in the light, but there is no light apart from Him. When He shines on Isaiah's Highway of Holiness, it becomes the Great White Way home. There is such a thing as a completed Salvation. When you receive the Holy Ghost you do not need the added light of a tallow candle. When the sun is full and clear you put aside your lantern.

II. The Second benefit included in the experience is knowledge. The Holy Ghost furnishes the highest possible degree of knowledge to be known this side of Heaven. We may know more as we walk on with Him, but you will never know any thing more absolutely certain than you may know the presence and comfort of the Holy Ghost in this life. In all the rolling cycles of whirling worlds, there is no other light or knowledge that is dependable. Many regard physical knowledge as most certain, mental knowledge less certain, and spiritual knowledge the most uncertain; but the reverse is true. Physical knowledge is the least certain, mental knowledge is vastly more certain, and spiritual knowledge is absolutely certain. In the physical realm, any of your five senses may be so perverted as to deceive you. You thought you saw a man, but it proved to be a donkey. You heard the preacher say things that he never said. But the Apostle said concerning the facts of spiritual experience, "We know that we know."

III. The abiding presence of the Holy Ghost secures the highest possible degree of safety known in a state of probation. When the gates of the Eternal City clank shut behind you, your eternal safety is an everlasting fact. But until that happy hour, you are exposed to temptation, to

hell's onslaughts and the wiles of the devil who walketh as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Your greatest possible safety is in the abiding garrison of the Holy Ghost's presence. Without Him you are without defence. He is an all consuming fire within you, quenching all the fiery darts of the enemy. He is a wall of fire around you through which the armies of hell cannot break. "He that keepeth you shall neither slumber nor sleep." "The Lord your God which goeth before you shall fight for you." "For the Lord your God is He that goeth with you to fight for you, against your enemies to save you." "One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the Lord your God, He it is that fighteth for you." "The Lord shall fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

When he comes, He will make all matters so plain that you will never treat sin as a light matter. He is the only one that can make it possible for you to stand amid the criticism of the world and the clouds of censure from your own friends. You may sorrow and weep until there are no tears; but though you suffer a thousand deaths while you live, and though you may be thought to be backslidden, He is holding your hand. He will never leave or forsake you. You need never fear.—Pilgrim Holiness Advocate.

DUTY.

The sweetest lives are those to duty wed,
Whose deeds, both great and small,
Are close knit strands of an unbroken
thread,

Whose love ennobles all.

The world may sound no trumpet, ring no
bells;

The book of life the shining record tells.
Thy love shall chant its own beatitudes,
After its own life-working. A child's kiss
Set on thy singing lips shall make thee
glad;

A poor man served by thee shall make
thee rich;

A sick man helped by thee shall make
thee strong;

Thou shalt be served thyself by every
sense

Of service thou renderest.

—Robert Browning.