## An Advocate of Scriptural 1

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of iness.- Isa. 35-8

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Thou Knowest the Commandments.

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## By C. V. Fairbairn

It is always sad to see a person facing danger unaware, unalarmed. It is especially sad when that danger is peril of soul, and they do not see the awfulness of the fearful doom which hangs over them.

The world says: "Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise." That may sound all right, but when we see blissful ignorance hurtling a man to a doom which wisdom might avert, we fail to see the folly in enlightening his darkness of mind and heart.

Some are in ignorance through blindness, never having seen the light. Others are blind because once having the light, they refused to walk in it and their light has become darkness, and "how great is that darkness." They are, oh, so blind, yet in such danger.

God has declared, "The soul that sinneth it shall die." Awful doom is coming upon the soul that persists in sinning. Thousands are bringing that doom down upon their own heads, some because they do not recognize sin when they see it, and some because they do not realize the heinousness of sin. Others seem to think they can sin and get away with it. Satan said, "Ye shall not surely die." Eve believed him. Multitudes believe him today. They will be caught as poor Eve was caught. "The soul that sinneth it shall die." God says so. Let us not be deceived: "God is not mocked." If we sow sin we must reap the harvest of sin, death. The test for sin is law, for sin is transgression of law, or lawlessness. There is both a written and an unwritten law in the kingdom of God as well as in the state. The written law is that body of general principles revealed in the Word of God and equally applicable to all men everywhere. The unwritten law is the special application of these general principles to particular and individual cases. Unwritten law is not equally applicable to all men everywhere, but only to those who are impressed by the Holy Spirit that the special application of the general principle to their individual case obliges them to do thus and so, or to refrain from doing thus and so. For instance, God says, "Whether ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God." A friend of ours has

learned from hard experience that eating warm biscuits makes him sick and thus prevents him from being at his best for God. Manifestly that is not for God's glory, so he conscientiously leaves warm biscuits alone. The general principle says, "Eat to the glory of God." The unwritten law says to our friend, "Don't eat warm biscuits."

Written or unwritten, every individual must observe the law of his conscience, all that is revealed to him as duty, if he keeps his conscience inviolate. The unwritten law disregarded will keep the blessing of God off my soul, as much as will the transgression of the written law.

Many folks, proud of their morality or outward conformity to written law, nevertheless stand guilty before a disregarded unwritten law. Their conscience is not void of offense, and we are told that 'if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart and knoweth all things.'' That means He also condemns.

Proud of their morality, did we say? How few there are who are really moral? When Jesus said to the young man, "Keep the commandments," he replied, "All these have I kept from my youth up." He spake the truth, else Jesus had rebuked him for his lying and hypocrisy, for Jesus always rebuked the cheat. How many could say with this young man, "All these have I kept?" In these evil days, many could say, "All these have I broken." Yes, the majority would say those very words, if they would tell the truth. Are you one of that majority? time, and service, and affection, which rightfully belongs to God alone. They are idolaters.

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NO. 157

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Profanity is heard on every hand. How often in the home, on the street, or on the train, grumbled by old ones, lisped by young ones, most unseemly language falls upon the ear. Both men and women are guilty. We have been startled to hear the confessions of even fine young women, that in times of provocation, they were wickedly addicted to this vile habit. Fathers and mothers you are not guiltless. The place to stop street vulgarity and blasphemy is when slang begins to appear in your own language. Stop your slang and profanity will die. Don't, by your example, teach your children to blaspheme that precious name.

"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Sunday picnics, newspapers, visiting, games, all profane the holy Sabbath of God. The Sunday street car, train, automobile, or motor boat, the Sunday morning milk-dray, the Sunday job, these all (unless it be in rare and exceptional cases) profane the Sabbath of God. God says, "Remember." Oh, let us remember! Our parents were very strict along these lines. At times, in those early days, their strictness seemed rather irksome; but we have since then looked back and praised God for such teaching. Thanks to their training, we feel we can never do aught, or patronize aught, which strikes at the sanctity of God's holy day. "Honor thy father and thy mother." How often this commandment is broken. Fathers and mothers lost control of their children. They reap their harvest in "The Boss," "The Guv'nor," "The Ole Lady," and kindred terms and epithets. One interferes when the other corrects. That other thinks it cute when the child "sauces back." We question the "cuteness" but do not doubt the coming harvest of disrespect, disregard, lack of honor , possibly dishonor, loss of love, and broken hearts which awaits parents just fifteen years up the road. "Thou shalt not kill." God did not say do not kill quickly, or slowly, before birth, or after birth. He simply said, 'Thou shalt not kill.''

Men and women are going crashing down to hell, breaking every commandment in the decalog.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Anything, that absorbs more of our time, affection, service and devotion, than we give to God, we have set up in His place and cried, "These be thy gods, O Israel."

Thousands, some of whom even profess religion, are slaving today after the almighty dollar, with little or no time left to serve God. The dollar is their god. Others put a greater premium on pride, dress, furniture, or equippage, than they do on salvation. These things are their gods. Education, prosperity, brick houses, poodle dogs, Holsteins, Ayrshires, Berkshires, oh, upon what thousand-andone things are people bestowing all their

(Continued on Page Six).