

ON RESISTING THE TRUTH.

By Rev. C. V. Fairbairn.

Spiritual truth has always been unwelcome in certain quarters. It has been despised, rejected, hated. Its preachers and advocates have been despised, ridiculed, rejected, hated, traduced, inculted, exiled, tortured, murdered, hanged, strangled, drowned, crucified, burned, beheaded, sawn asunder, and all because the truth was their only message.

Despisers have even admitted the results of the truth or its effect upon men, yet hating it because it is the truth have with the utmost animosity continued to oppose it with every weapon at their disposal, simply because they were in error, error cherished, loved and defended. Yet in the passing of the years "Truth crushed to earth has risen again," and has been demonstrated as the truth, and the sons of persecutors have had to praise, and have acclaimed as heroes the defenders of truth whom their fathers crushed.

Noah sent by God to the men of his day was scorned and laughed at, yet his truth was their only means of salvation. Moses in his day was grumbled at and maltreated; Elijah, harried out of the country; Isaiah, sawn asunder; Jeremiah, killed in Egypt; John the Baptist, imprisoned and beheaded; Jesus Christ, driven to Calvary; yet in every case the truth they represented and proclaimed was the only possible means of salvation for the men of their times.

Following in their train, what a noble company of "saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs." It has always meant a great deal to be associated with the minds of men with the eternal truth of God.

Of all that noble band who traveled Galilee with Jesus, only John met death according to nature, and that only after cruel assault, attempts to murder him and a life of lonely exile on Patmos.

Tyndale, the translator of the Bible, was strangled. Huss, of Bohemia, was burned. John Bunyan was imprisoned in Bedford jail. Luther was attacked and opposed by the whole hierarchy of Rome. Wesley was cast out, persecuted and mobbed by his fellow clergy of the Church of England. Yet of some of the noble martyrs it was written that they "remained constant in their faith and boldly declared that no tortures of body or terrors of mind should ever induce them to renounce their faith in God."

Brother, the days of intense opposition are not yet past. Between truth and error there is an eternal enmity. To a fallen race, a wicked world, a church sunken in apostasy the truth is still unwelcome.

Luther's work of enunciating the truth of justification by faith needs to be done once again, even in this our day. Wesley's work of enunciating the truths of "assurance" and "Christian perfection" needs to be done all over again, and, sad to say, the need is greatest right where those churches are strongest which were the direct result of these noble men's efforts. Yet let any one dare to pronounce with his mouth these fundamental truths and all hell will be stirred, and every force in line with hell, all the way from cold, formal, unconfessed backsliders, in all their

pomp of pipe organs and gorgeous mock worship, to every force that the vile, hodlun spuing forth of the pit can muster or produce.

But, brother, these very truths must be held forth. They open the only way to heaven; the only way for fallen man to escape from the grip of sin and get back to God. God saw our race held captive by sin, heard our groanings and not only sent the prophets with the messages of deliverance but came down Himself, in the person of Jesus and undertook and accomplished the destruction of the works of the devil. Thank God, He who knows the vileness of sin, its awful power, offers to us the only remedy for sin, the only way of escape.

He calls to repentance. Have you repented? He tells us to make confession and restitution and forsake the ways of sin. Have you done so? He calls us to a definite experience of regeneration, attested to by the witness of the Spirit. Do you enjoy this? He calls to the cleansing away of sin, the complete eradication of the old sin principle, and the mighty anointing baptism of the Holy Ghost. This is the only path to fitness to live, fitness to die and fitness for heaven.

We are obligated to preach these truths. To preach anything short of this would be to frustrate the grace of God and would amount to disobedience.

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart * soul * strength * and mind." This Jesus declared to be the sum of and the greatest of the commandments.

Sin is that which is contrary to the will of God and consequently to the very nature and person of God Himself. That inbeing of sin, the carnal mind, "is enmity against God." Sin is in you and works out in the thought and word and deed, because, since the fall, it is part of man, ingrained right in the warp and woof of his very being, inseparable (humanly speaking) from him. He is soaked and steeped in it and every motion is as full of that which is "enmity against God" as an egg is full of meat. Sin is enmity against God. We are required to love God with all our being. That heart which has sin in it can not so love God. Wherever there is sin predominating, love of God can not exist. So if you are controlled by sin, you do not love God at all.

If you have been saved and are still enjoying this experience, sin does not control. You have been delivered from the power of sin and you love your Deliverer, yet not with all your heart, for sin is still remaining; and if sin still lingers, occupies a place (even though unwilling by you), you can not love God with all your heart, though you may desire to do so. Before you can so love Him, sin has to go; must be cast out.

Praise God, this is possible. You can come to the place, where by a definite act of omnipotent power, sin is all cast out, so that nothing remains which opposes, resists, or draws back from the will of God and only love is felt in the heart; love as a passion, love as an energy, love as the new mainspring of your life. You love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as your-

CORRESPONDENCE.

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has occasionally very acceptably supplied for the Sunday afternoon service at Belvedere.

The Sabbath School held a successful concert and treat Xmas Eve. A Xmas offering was sent to the pastor.

Words would fail to express the appreciation of these dear people, who have shown us such kindness during Mr. Clark's and John's illness.

We have appreciated the young people's choir, whose members have come in at different times and cheered us with their songs.

Mr. Clark sends his testimony, "The Anchor holds, and Jesus is unspeakably precious."

MRS. S. H. CLARK.

Houlton, Me.

Dear Brother Trafton:

Please find enclosed renewal for Highway which seems like a letter from home each time I receive it, as I miss my own church and people. As I read its inspiring pages it helps very much. Am still on the way and in the way. Wish I could just be in one of the good old meetings we used to have in Gordonsville and hear you preach one of your good old fashioned holiness sermons.

Yours for Holiness unto the Lord,

MRS. ERNEST TURNEY.

Hartland, 1926.

Dear Highway:

We wish to express our thanks to the Church and congregation of this place for their thoughtfulness of us at this time of the year.

New Year's Night a goodly number of them, including the pastor of the United Church of Canada and some of its members, gathered in our home and after singing and prayers left for their homes, but not before Brother Grey, in behalf of those present, presented us with goods and money amounting to forty-two dollars. We have received two dollars since. For these and all other tokens of their love and care for us, as well as the many things we received from friends all over this circuit and from distant places, we wish to show our appreciation and say again, "Thank you!"

May the dear Lord whose we are and whom we serve richly reward you.

E. W. AND MRS. LESTER.

self."

Is there anything more reasonable?

Yet, because their "old man" hates the truth, people do not want to hear of heart corruption. Churchy backsliders do not want to hear of their unconfessed sins. Accordingly every move to preach these truths will always occasion a fight with the entrenched forces and powers of carnality. You get down to preaching real heart holiness and you will find out that Stephen's words, as found in Acts 7:51, are true of folks today.

What shall we do? Pray, "Grant unto Thy servants that with all boldness, they may speak Thy word," and trusting in His might go right on proclaiming it. Amen. Kingston, Ontario, Canada.