

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. 35-8

VOL. XXXVII.

MONCTON, N. B., JAN. 15, 1927.

NO. 161

THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY!

Chas. V. Fairbairn.

The whole epistle to the Corinthian Church is corrective. Paul had considerable difficulty in not only weaning his babes away from the things of the past, but also in fixing their eyes upon the things of greater spiritual value. Both they and we are all sufficiently human and true to type that we, as well as they, still need these corrective letters.

That they had been well converted is well evidenced in the first chapter of both the epistles to the Church at Corinth. And yet, there was a "more excellent way."

They were certainly loyal to their leaders and spiritual fathers; yea, they would even break fellowship with each other in contending for the merits of their favorite preachers. And yet, better than church loyalty, a higher road than that of clique and sect, there was "a more excellent way."

So far as special gifts and talents were concerned, they were well supplied. And yet, with all their tongues, interpretations, visions, prophecies, and special messages, there was still "a more excellent way." IT WAS THE WAY OF PERFECT LOVE. This "more excellent way" we need to find, and walk, as much as any who have ever been called Christians.

That the way of perfect love is "more excellent" than any other way is clearly demonstrated by both Jesus and the apostles. Verses 6, 8-10, 12, 14, 16, and 22, of 1 John xvii, clearly show that the disciples were good men, real good men. Yet Jesus did not allow them to swing out to their life work until they were sanctified, filled with perfect love. Why? He wanted more excellent workers rather than good workers. And when the apostles visited the believers at Samaria, Caesarea, Ephesus and wherever else they went, they urged one and all, right at once to seek and find the fullness of the blessing. Why? Because the way was more excellent than the way they had already found.

The highway of perfect love is more excellent because:

(1) To be filled with love is to enjoy, what Dr. Chalmers called "the expulsive power of a new affection." The old things, root and branch, go, expelled by the force and constraint of perfect love.

(2) To be filled with perfect love is a life of immensely intensely greater power than the life of the merely converted babe in Christ.

(3) To be filled with perfect love recommends our salvation to our friends. They may resist entreaty and exhortation, but who can stand out against love. The world is dying for a show of holy affection. Souls are starving. Still, "Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter, feelings lie buried that grace can restore."

(4) Perfect love is the deadliest weapon we can use on our enemies. Many a sanctified man has killed his foes' enmity by loving them to death. "Love your enemies."

(5) To be filled with perfect love gives the impulse to work while we pray, and pray while we work. Prayer and work divorced, the one from the other, are alike ineffectual.

(6) To be filled with perfect love is transcendently superior to having full possession of any gift or all the other gifts. Gifts may be possessed and exercised without any grace in the heart. Balaam had the gift of prophecy; his ass had the gift of language; neither had any grace; yea, it is to be filled with God; for God is Love.

(7) To be filled with perfect love is even better than having great and special faith; better than hope. While faith and hope are constant gifts not intermittently bestowed like some of the others, yet faith, some day soon, will be lost in sight; hope will presently be swallowed up in realization; but LOVE, love is the atmosphere of heaven, the breath of the saints in glory, yea, the very character and existence of GOD HIMSELF. Love will never die "till brambles bloom above the grave of God;" and that shall never, never, NEVER be. Glory!

(8) To be filled with perfect love is to bind a man by the strongest possible chain in love, duty and service to the strongest possible in the universe, even the Almighty I Am.

Covet earnestly the best gifts, and yet show I unto you a more excellent way. Choose perfect love. Seek perfect love. Never cease from your seeking for Him; (for Love is God and God is Love); until the Spirit lets you freely know that which is given you of God.

How is it bestowed? By no natural or ordinary means. This is extraordinary; this is supernatural; yea supernatural and divine, that is why it crowds out sin from the willing heart. Its bestowment is miraculous. "The very God of Peace" must sanctify you wholly. The mighty baptism, which bestows the gift (not gifts) of the Holy Ghost, will fill your heart full with perfect love; for "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Spirit GIVEN unto us." The fullness of the Spirit will bring the fullness of His fruit; and "the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE."

Why seek "the more excellent way?" For the same reason that if, when going out to chop wood, you had your choice of many axes, you would choose the one with the sharpest bit, the keenest edge, the helve that fits your hand, the length of helve that gives the best stroke, the more excellent axe for you to use. You wouldn't choose the inferior tool. Choose "the more excellent way" for the same reason that if, you had your choice of locations when about to build an earthly mansion, you would choose the spot that gave you elevation, drainage, sunlight, the most possible advantages, rather than building on piles in the edge of a swamp where cranes fished tad-poles from under green scum, where bull-frogs added their heavy basso to the charm of mosquitoes' high tenor, and where malaria lurked and death waited. Choose, seek, find "the more excellent way," because it is the hunger of the truly converted heart to find it; and you will never get the most passible out of your salvation, or be really satisfied till you do.