

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. XXXVII.

MONCTON, N. B., JULY 31, 1929

NO. 13

WOUNDS RECEIVED IN THE HOUSE OF HIS FRIENDS

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"And one shall say unto Him, 'What are these wounds in Thine hands?' Then He shall answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of My friends.'" Zech. 13:6.

The wounds of Jesus speak more eloquently than words. Many things are clearly taught us in the word of God that we never can fully appreciate until we see them revealed in those streaming wounds."

1. What do those wounds reveal to us? 1. They reveal the love of God. The Bible is full of God's messages of love. They are to be found in the Old as well as the New Testament. The prophets and the apostles tell of it. Isa. 49: 15, 16, "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me." Here we have the love of God revealed to us, as being stronger than the love a mother could possibly have for her offspring.

Again, let us look at a scripture in the Psalms (Psa. 103: 13, 14); "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame: He remembereth that we are dust." Here we have a revelation of God's love for us in that, as an earthly father looks upon his children, knowing their weaknesses and inabilities, pitieth them, so God knowing our frame and remembering that we are dust, does not place more upon, or allow any temptation to come to us that we are not able to bear. Then John the beloved disciple said, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." (1 John 3:1). Here we see the love of God in that, while we have been wrecked by the fall we have the privilege of becoming the sons and daughters of God. However, if our souls are to be fully impressed with the love of God we must look to the cross, where God gave his His only begotten Son, and where Jesus gave Himself for the redemption of our souls.

2. They reveal sin. The Bible tells us a great deal about sin. We get some idea of sin in the wreckage it has wrought down through the ages. Sin entered into the beautiful garden that God had made, and where He had placed our first parents, deceiving them and blasting their moral character, with the result that God drove them from the garden. From that time to this sin has been doing its awful work of ruin and devastation in the world. Sin is no respecter of persons. It makes inroads at times upon those whose lives are holy, as well as those who make no pretense to piety. Some whose desires were holy, whose ambitions were to glorify God,

and whose hopes for the future were bright, have been smitten by this blighting, killing, damning influence and lay defeated and ruined, to be laughed at by the devil and shunned by their fellowmen. Some of these never attempt to rise again. Others try to rise, but because of the pressure from hell and carnal men give up the battle, and go down never to rise again. While, still others, fixing their eyes upon Jesus Christ, are determined by His grace to make it through, are fully victorious. But if we wish to know the exceeding sinfulness of sin we must look to the cross. It crucified the Son of God.

3. They reveal forgiveness. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34), "Be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph. 4:32.

4. They reveal intercession. "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared." (Heb. 5:7) Here we have the intercession of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. Then in Heb. 7:25, we have the fact stated that, "He ever liveth to make intercession for us."

5. They reveal atonement. "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." (Heb. 9:12).

A verse in one of Charles Wesley's hymns reveals this same thing:

"Five bleeding wounds He bears,
Received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers,
They strongly plead for me;
'Forgive him, O, forgive they cry,
Nor let that ransomed sinner die!'"

Thank God, He hears and forgives because of what Jesus did.

II. To whom do those wounds speak? They speak to the children of God. To the advanced Christian ripe for glory, the words of Newton will apply:

"Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace."

Next: to those just starting in the Christian life, they point to the path of suffering for His sake. Fellowship with His sufferings is connected with fellowship with His glory. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; and if children then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with

Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Rom. 8:16-18). Again, to the doubting, trembling inquirer who has not yet accepted the Lord as his Saviour, these wounds should make an appeal.

III. By whom were those wounds inflicted? The text says they were received in the house of His friends. What a friend Christ has been! What has our friendship been to Him? Those to whom He came first rejected, wounded and crucified Him. There is such a thing still as crucifying Him and that, too, in His own house. You ask how the friends of Christ can crucify or wound Him and I answer: 1. By indifference. Oh, the indifference manifested in the lives of many of the professed followers of the Lord! Lack of interest in revivals, in home missions, in foreign missions, in deeply spiritual things and in the welfare of the young people of the church. This indifference, or spiritual apathy, is one of the greatest hindrances to the progress and development of the church. 2. Failure to take a definite stand for Him. We should take a definite stand for Christ in the home, in the church, in the shop, in the school, or wherever we may be. In this day of forms, and ceremonies in the church, without the power of God, we should stand out definitely for Bible conviction, repentance, regeneration and entire sanctification, which experiences will give one such a relationship with Jesus Christ that he will be a vital force for righteousness wherever he may go. Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven." 3. By a lack of unity in the church. In the great high-priestly prayer which Jesus offered just before the crucifixion He prayed, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent Me." It wounds Jesus when strifes, contentions and divisions come into the church. We may not always be able to see just alike in every particular, but we ought to allow the other person the same margin that we would like to have for ourselves. 4. By failing to walk in the light. That which makes manifest the will of God is light. Light walked in gives a continuation of cleansing. When one fails to walk in any ray of light darkness overshadows that soul and condemnation follows. Failure to seek God for the cause or removal of this darkness and condemnation will result in a backslidden heart. "This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light." "But he

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