

The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

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

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DON'T SELL YOURSELF

When I was but a small boy I remember of hearing of some very wicked men that seemed to have no fear of God before their eyes. Some people said it seemed as if these men had sold themselves to the Devil. In my childish mind this was the greatest sin conceivable; to sell ones self to the enemy of their soul.

Lately I have been thinking of some people who evidently are selling themselves to work wickedness. A Bible character that comes to my mind is Ahab. In 1 Kings, chapter 21 and verse 25 we find, "But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up". In thinking about his life, we find he was a religious man; he fed 850 prophets, so it is possible to be very religious and yet have no Christ in our religion, but he sold to Satan. Ahab also had respect for some Godly men and knew they were dependable and trusted much to their care; he showed this by putting Obadiah as governor of his palace.

So it is today most ungodly men like to send their children to schools where there are Christian teachers and the majority of people; as much as they say about Holiness, think it would be good to have when dying.

We notice Ahab made a great mistake that many make today, in placing good things ahead of the best. It is said he worshipped the sun, the sun is surely good; but the Word says "worship God". So in these days many put good causes ahead of the best; for instance, they give time to things that may be good, but God's work is the best. Ahab, who sold himself to work wickedness, tried to place the blame on others for conditions that he was responsible for. When because of his sins God allowed the heavens to be closed, so that for three years and six months there was no dew nor rain, Ahab said to Elijah "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" Many times the true child of God has been blamed for the condition of things; which was really caused by sin in the lives of others. Sometimes people do not get any good out of a service. They blame the preacher or some Saint of God for spoiling the service when in reality it is sin in their own heart causing the trouble. The cause of fostering division in a community is laid at the feet of the Holiness preach-

er; when the fact is he is preaching the only doctrine that will bring unity. Jesus said "sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." "That they all may be one".

The person who sells himself to do evil, is not likely to keep their word. Ahab said: "The God that answers by fire, let Him be God", but Ahab did not keep his word. God did answer by fire, and the rain came but Ahab soon forgot. Satan makes those who are sold to him soon forget their vows to God. We notice that a person who sells themselves to work wickedness soon becomes covetous. When they cannot have their own way, they will resort to foul ways of gaining their heart's desire. Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard. He tried to get it without using violence; when he didn't succeed he got sulky and began to pout. How much like some people today? If they cannot run the Church, the Sunday School and the Preacher, they will sulk and stay home. Sin always acts the same in the human heart. It is no better now than in Ahab's day. Ahab's wife, Jezebel, saw no need of sulking, she thought she could soon help him and he was willing to take her advice. She had an idea that under the pretense of religion, she could get the vineyard and she did. They got false witnesses to tell that Naboth blasphemed God and the king. Happy is the man who dies for Truth and Righteousness. No doubt, Naboth was called narrow and uncharitable for not selling his garden of herbs, but he had a reason found in Numbers 36th chapter, verse 7, "So shall not the inheritance of the children of Israel remove from tribe to tribe; for every one of the children of Israel shall keep himself to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers."

Should we be surprised when we are called narrow, harsh, and uncharitable because we won't surrender our inheritance? Though Naboth was stoned to death, his was a triumphant death; and he being dead yet speaketh. If we sell ourselves, we like Ahab will look upon the true messenger of God as our enemy. He said "Hast thou found me, I mine enemy?" How true with every person who fails to let God have His way in their lives, they think every testimony and fervent prayer backed up by the Holy Ghost and every sermon preached under the anointing of the Holy Ghost seems to be aimed at them.

Ahab said of Micaiah "I hate him for he never prophesied good unto me but always evil." II Chronicles 18-7. This is true among chicken thieves. Preaching against stealing chickens always brings coolness on the meeting. The moral we get from this is, "Stop doing the thing you hate to hear the preacher preach against." We notice Ahab liked the 400 calf worshippers that

pulled the wool over his eyes; but one fearless prophet who told him the truth had to eat the bread of affliction and water of affliction, II Chronicles 18-26. But let us not pity Micaiah too much, in the long run, his lot was much better than that of lying prophets. Oh, the sin that is committed in a few moments! It didn't take long to plan or put into effect the death of Naboth, but the results, Eternity couldn't erase the evil done. Ahab lost his kingdom, lost his life, lost his family and greatest of all lost his soul. Jezebel couldn't help him now. God's wrath was poured out upon him. The Word says, Ahab was stirred up by his wife Jezebel. Friends, be careful someone don't stir you up to sell yourself to work wickedness. Ahab sold himself for a garden of herbs. Judas sold himself for twenty pieces of silver. Esau sold himself for a mess of pottage. What does the devil want you to sell yourself for? A high place in worldly society? A little ease? A chance to lord it over someone else? or what is it? He tries hard these days to break in the ranks of the Church, but let us purpose by God's help, we will try to counteract the influence of the modern Ahabs by being like Elijah of old; praying until heaven answers or like Micaiah that lived so clean and testified so straight. Let us be like them, so that people in sin will feel uncomfortable around where we live. Or like the three Hebrew children that were not careful to answer in a matter that meant compromise, but were assured that God was able to deliver them from the burning fiery furnace; and Daniel who feared not the lion's den, for God sent an angel and shut the lion's mouth.

Sometime ago when thinking of the havoc one person in sin could do to the cause of Holiness, God seemed to show me that He could more than counteract the evil done by Satan and his agents, if He could get some people in the same community that would abandon themselves to the Holy Ghost.

In writing this article I hope to stir up every reader, so we will be more determined than ever that we will not sell out to Satan to work wickedness, but will let God have His way with us and stand for the right at any cost. For we are bought with a price, not of silver or gold, but by the precious blood of Jesus.

PART II

Changes of circumstances should not be a Christian's joy. He should be independent of life's sorrows and losses. Then he becomes a fountain of blessing in the world.