

# 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

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## The New Testament Standard of Holiness.

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This is a very important question and we propose to answer it from the Scriptures, from which there is no appeal. Jesus Christ is the standard of holiness for the church. We will divide the subject into two parts. First, the life of Christ. Second, Christ's own teaching and other scripture that would prove the subject.

Genesis 1:27—"God created man in His own image: in the image of God created He him." This was the standard of holiness the human family was started out in and approved of God, and nothing short of this would fill the bill. Though after the fall of the human race, God tried to bring them back to this standard of holiness, it was almost a complete failure, as man was a free moral agent and endowed with the power of choice. His choice was to live in sin and not come back. We could quote much scripture to show that this original standard of holiness was indorsed and approved of by all of God's people clear up to the coming of Christ, although very few ever lived up to it. God gave His testimony of Job that there was none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feared God and eschewed evil. See Job 1:8. And through all his afflictions and temptations he held to the line of holiness, a perfect faith and perfect humility. We can see by this that there are two spiritual kingdoms in eternal antagonism. God and holiness and heaven on one side, and the devil and sin and destruction and hell on the other side. Now here is the human family between these two great kingdoms. God has a plan to get every one on the right side and save every one. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:16, 17). God has gone to the limit of His wisdom and love to save us. Jesus Christ took upon Himself our humanity, to show us the Father (John 14:9). That is to say, He came all the way down to this world, on the devil's battle-ground, to fight and conquer him, where there was unbelief and sin of every kind, sickness, and suffering from all kinds of diseases, were because of a life of sin. The devil has continued this work even to this day. In fact, much of the moral and spiritual condition of the world is worse today than it was in Christ's day, as the light of the gospel, through the power of the Holy Spirit, has increased to save us. People have sinned against greater light. "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness?"—(Matt. 6:23).

The greater light of the Holy Ghost that has come to us in these last days may be sinned against, for which there is no forgiveness. There

never was a time when there was so much false doctrine being taught. There never was a time when there was so much crime, criminals of the highest type, because they have sinned against greater light. There never was a time when there was a greater demand for a holiness church that would represent Jesus Christ in His great work of saving the world. "That the world may believe that Thou hast sent me" (John 17:21). "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you"—(John 15:13, 14).

What shall we say of Christ, one who came down here, to take hold of us, to lift us up and out of our sins, and when we do not want to come to Him He shows great patience and forbearance to win us over to His side. He loved His enemies and laid down His life to save them. He showed His great love for sinners in His everyday life of self-denial, and manifested His power by healing all manner of sickness and casting out devils and raising the dead. He suffered great persecution and death on the cross that we might be saved.

Now here is Christ Jesus, the standard of holiness for the church. Repentance is godly sorrow for sin and restitution or making our wrongs right. By this we give Christ the open door into our hearts to come in and break the power of sin and cast it out. This is the mighty work of regeneration or the new birth. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). Now as Christ is that holiness without which no man shall see the Lord, it follows that we must continue to abide in Him. In the eighth chapter of Romans, in describing the great victory Christ gives us over sin and the carnal mind, in the seventh verse it says that the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the laws of God, neither indeed can be, so that the holiness that Christ gives us by His presence in us is complete deliverance from the carnal mind and everything that belongs to it. The ninth verse says that if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.

So we see that Christ is the standard of holiness for the church. The life of Christ is the example we are to live by as we meet the same trying circumstances that He met. We inquire what He did and then we know what we must do. Did He live up to His own preaching? We know He did, and we know He has put a command on the church to live up to His teaching. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man that built his house upon a rock. And the rain descended and the floods came and the winds blew and beat upon that house and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock" (Matt.

7:24). Here we see it is only those that live up to Christ's teachings that will stand in the judgment. We will take a few of Christ's sayings and show that it is impossible to live up to them unless we have that holiness that Christ will give us by His abiding presence in us. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). Take the first six verses of the fifth chapter of Matthew. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God," and other blessings Christ pronounced in other spiritual characters. But notice there is no outward act mentioned. It is confined to the spiritual condition of the soul that Christ refers to, from which all outside acts spring. Here is righteousness, here is holiness, not after our pattern or our idea, but Christ's own holiness after His own living pattern that will exactly fit into His word. He will not require more than Himself in us. He will not let us pass with less than Himself in us, with all the weakness of human nature, with all of our infirmities in our outward life, there is no way to make us fit into the word of God and live up to it only as we have the Holy Spirit's supernatural, transforming power change us.

We have so far given the life of Christ Himself as the standard of holiness in the church. We want to give some scripture as to the character of holiness in the church. The purpose for which Christ came into the world was to save the world. It could not be fully carried out under His dispensation. In the sixteenth chapter of John, Christ gives His disciples clearly to understand the Holy Ghost dispensation must be introduced and that it would continue to the end of time; that it was just as important as His own dispensation. John said of Christ, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire" (Matt. 3:11), that is, Christ would see to it that they were all baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire. It was the only way they could be brought up to that high spiritual level of His teaching. So Christ said to them, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14-15). In obedience to Christ's command the church at that time continued in prayer and supplications for the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. Now this was Christ's ideal church, and the record here in the Acts of the apostles shows this church to be a holiness church. Under the mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire Jesus Christ had Pentecost fully endorsed which brought the church up to the high spiritual level of His kingdom and enforced

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