

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. p. 35-8

VOL. XXXVII.

MONCTON, N. B., NOV. 29, 1930

NO. 36

HOLINESS

By Rev. Francis E. Pond

Holiness is not to be regarded simply as a quality of the mind or a quiescent mental state; but as intensely active in personal agency. From this viewpoint it is called righteousness. "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Righteousness will not permit of doing otherwise than right. Holiness is not governed by sentiment. A holy man not only instinctively recoils from every form of known evil, but also withholds his sanction from any deviation of the principles of rectitude in others. A complacency that overlooks intentional wrong-doing in any one because of a benevolent regard for him is foreign to holiness; for in the nature of the case it can not look upon sin with any degree of allowance.

Justice, then, is an essential attribute of holiness. A person in the enjoyment of heart purity will be impartial in his attitude toward all toward all with whom he deals. He will hold himself and all others to a strict adherence to righteousness. To him nothing short of full conformity to holiness in its ethical relations to life and conduct is permissible. He demands holiness in all manner of living. Holiness is sensitive to sin and opposed to its manifestations; quick in its condemnation of it, and adamant in its refusal to condone its conduct or excuse its presence. Any other attitude would jeopardize the well-being of the universe, and holiness would cease to be holiness. This position receives the approval of the most High. "Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows."

Holiness is fearless. "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love." Peter and his colleagues proved themselves to be recreant towards in the time of their Lord's distress and crucifixion. No more shameful betrayal of loyalty need be recorded than was theirs in that darkest hour of the world's history. What a tragedy! The Son of God in His hour of need, when He was giving "the last full measure" of his strength, even unto death, that He might "destroy the works of the devil," "they all forsook Him, and fled." But "sin makes cowards of us all". A great change took place in their lives and conduct in and after the day of Pentecost. How emboldened they become after that wonderful infusion of the Holy Spirit! They braved danger, imprisonment, threats, scourgings, and death that they might testify to the triumphs of their risen Lord. What a brave, bold utterance was that of St. Peter, as he preached to the wondering multitude on that birthday of the church, when he said: "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of

Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." He was not afraid to throw in their very teeth the charge of murdering his Lord. The deep, heart expression of the early saints found form in the poetic utterance of St. Paul: "God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." By the grace of God they became emboldened to do and dare, unhesitant and unafraid of what man could do unto them.

"In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime."

Holiness is unworldly. A casual reading of the Acts of the Apostles will reveal this. Unworldliness is written all through that first history of the Christian Church. It is here taught incidentally and by way of inference, but no less clearly and forcefully than in the direct injunction of Paul's: "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord."

Holiness is out of harmony with a worldly spirit, whether it be manifested in attire, unethical business methods, or worldly-mindedness. The people for the most part have come to associate modesty with holiness as an essential co-ordinate feature of real spirituality. "And to keep himself unspotted from the world," is the way St. James puts it. A person who has any respect for the esthetic sensibilities of those he wishes to please, or any regard for his reputation as an artist, could not be induced to paint a *Madonna*, or any other saint, in the garb of a worldly person. It is universally the custom for painters to clothe their saints in plain, modest attire. To do otherwise would insult the good taste of those who have an appreciation of the fine arts. Saints in all ages have been known to be unlike the world in respect to dress, and every other merely worldly attitude as well.

The saints of the Acts were too much in earnest in their devotion to the practice of holiness; too much engaged in communing with God and developing their spiritual nature; too engrossed in carrying on the affairs of the kingdom of heaven, to care for, or attend to, the fashions of the world. They were too eager to catch the whisper of the voice divine, and heed what was said from the upper world to give attention to the latest fashion-plates. They gave their undivided attention to holy living. Who can imagine St. Paul parading the streets in the foppish attire of the town coxcomb? Or Lydia and her companions "out * * * by the river side, where prayer was wont to be made," in the la-

test creations of the time. Worldliness in any form is excessive in the extreme when associated with a truly spiritual life.

Holiness is evangelistic. During the lifetime of Jesus here, He sent the disciples out to preach in the towns and villages. His word to them was; "go." Otherwise they never would have gone. Their efforts were to all appearance of short duration. They soon returned rejoicing in their victories. But we do not have any evidence to show that they returned to like work until after the day of Pentecost. But that mighty baptism, which so thoroughly reorganized their lives and so wonderfully changed their attitude toward the world, put a passion within them for lost men that literally drove them forth as heralds of the cross. With them it was not a question of money, place, or station, but a privilege to preach the word to a dying world. They wonderfully exemplified that terse and lucid expression of St. Paul: "The love of Christ constraineth us." The second chapter of Acts gives an account of the first real holiness revival; and the remainder of the book is devoted to recounting the many revivals which followed that first one. They were thrust out to raise the standard of holiness, and spread the gospel of full salvation, 'to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.' This they did so admirably that they conquered the Roman world in three short centuries. The lukewarm church of today stands dazed and amazed at the audacious zeal and aggressive labor of those early evangelists, and well they may. What indefatigable toils! What herculean efforts! What splendid accomplishments! All, all as a direct result of a real holiness revival. How the heart of the truly devout thrill as they read and contemplate the mighty acts of those heroic times. What a longing do they inspire for a return of those gracious seasons of revival fires. Can they be repeated? Let us pray till they come back to the waiting church, that part of it at least which is alive to the Spirit's call.

"Let me go, let me go to the vineyard of God,
Let me go, and forever abide;
Ever valiant and strong in the work of the
Lord,
Working close by the crucified side.
Let me go, tell the world I am dead to its
charms,
For my friends ring a final death knell;
From the vineyard of God I have heard the
alarm,
Work to do, dearest idol, farewell."

—The Free Methodist.

Saint John, N. B.

Mr. P. J. Trafton:

Sir:—Enclosed please find money order for my renewal for The King's Highway.

I pray God will still bless your labors.

Yours,

MRS. ALICE G. EAGLES.