

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

THE ORGAN OF THE

REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

Published Semi-Monthly at Moncton, N. B.,
by a Committee of the Alliance

Editor and Business Manager - Rev. P. J. Trafton

Committee:

Revs. P. J. Trafton, H. C. Archer, H. C. Mullen,
I. F. Kierstead, H. S. Mullen

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:

Per year, in advance	\$1.50
Ministers, per year	1.00
Four months' trial subscription40
Sample Copy	Free
United States Subscribers	1.75
Ministers, U. S. A.	1.25

SPECIAL NOTICE

All correspondence for The Highway should reach us before the 12th and 25th of each month. Address: Rev. P. J. Trafton, Moncton, N. B.

MONCTON, N. B., SEPT. 15TH, 1930

EDITORIAL

We print the following article from "The Canadian Free Methodist Herald," which we feel can be profitably read by all our preachers and others. We commend it to your consideration:

THE PASTOR AMONG HIS BOOKS AND AMONG HIS PEOPLE

Here we have two subjects in one. It reminds us of the colored boy who kept teasing the aviator to give him a ride in his plane. So one day the aviator told him to hop in, and he gave him a half hour of rapid rough riding. As they landed and the negro lad climbed out he said, "Thanks you all, boss, for them two good rides." "Two rides, what do you mean by that?" inquired the flyer. "Yes, sir, the first and the last," was the answer.

Well, these subjects are so related and bear so strongly upon each other that we may fittingly have *two in one*. There is a great need for a pastor to be among his books; and there is just as great a need for a pastor to be among his people. But it sometimes happens that a pastor is so much taken up with his studies and reading matter that he neglects his people, and again it may be just the opposite. He may be so continually among his people that he becomes negligent and careless in regard to his studies and his sermon preparation. If he allows himself to move in either of these grooves or fall into either of these ruts if it does not soon result in his reaching his ministerial grave, it will at least keep him from reaching the place and point of efficiency it is his privilege to attain.

Before pursuing this thought further, let us take a few minutes to consider the position and importance of the pastor in the Church of Christ. The large Webster's International Dictionary defines pastor as "A shepherd, one who has the care of flocks and herds; a guardian; a keeper; especially a minister of a church, and a parish." That this office is of Divine origin no conscientious Bible student can deny, for the inspired St. Paul in speaking of Christ's triumph, and its results after His death and burial, says in Eph. 4:11, "And He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers." These different orders of the ministry seem to be stated more in the order of the relation they should bear to the different periods of time in the history of the church, rather than in a manner indicating their relative importance to

each other. The apostles were special foundation stones in the "New Testament Temple of Redemption." Prophets and evangelists were to at once build upon this foundation, though at first there were but few settled churches or regular congregations of Christian worshippers in particular communities. But as particular churches became organized and founded it pleased God to appoint angels unto the several churches, or to give them shepherds or guardians who would be their pastors and teachers.

We see the pastor is to be also a teacher, and here we see something of why he has need to "give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." 1 Tim. 1:13, and to "Study to show himself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth," 2 Tim. 2:15. He is both a watchman and instructor. As the sincere, devoted Christian man or woman contemplates such a calling and undertaking, surely there will be something of the feeling expressed by Solomon in 1 Kings 3:9, "Give there Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people, that I may discern between good and bad, for who is able to judge this Thy so great a people?" Also because of the terrible woe pronounced against the unfaithful Shepherds of Israel, who fail to feed the flock, and who put sweet for bitter and bitter for sweet see Ezekiel 34 and Isaiah 56.

Now two phases of the pastor's ministerial life are indicated by our subject, while still others might be enumerated. These are both vital and in a way may be said to touch, if not include and cover every part of his work. Let us consider:

1. The Pastor Among His Books.

This of course implies that he has some books, and also raises the question both of the wise manner of obtaining books and how to build up a suitable library, of the kind or nature of the books a pastor's library should contain. While I do not pretend to be able to speak convincingly and with authority upon all these subjects, yet I suppose, since I am placed on your program, I may be expected to give my advice as one who has obtained mercy to be faithful and that under these particular circumstances personal experiences and opinions may not be considered egotistical or out of place. As bearing upon the subject and leading to more specific directions let me say, while the modern pulpit orator should not be too dogmatic and erudite in his regular pulpit discourses, yet there is today an outstanding need for learned and skilled theologians. Paul's advice to his son Timothy, in the gospel, "Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine; continue in them, for in doing this, thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee." 1 Tim. 4:16 is still pertinent. It does make a difference what we feed upon. We need public instructors who have clear-cut religious convictions and conceptions of truth. It would be a serious matter for a doctor to wrongly diagnose a critical disease and prescribe the wrong medicine for a patient who was seriously ill, but how much more serious for a spiritual guide, dealing with the most vital and important questions conceivable, those pertaining to the eternal interests of precious souls, to be unskilful and careless. In Jeremiah 46:10 we read, "Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully," and the marginal rendering is *negligent*, "cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord *negligently*." If every Christian believer has need to give diligence to make their calling and election sure, then assuredly those who have received a special call to aid them, and to some extent be over

them, have a responsibility to give all diligence to succeed in their particular and high calling. But what shall we say in his use of books in this pursuit and endeavor?

First let it be remembered that the pastor's real text-book is the Bible. He should be permanently a man of one Book. John Wesley, who was a learned and pious theologian, a very widely read man, and himself the producer of some of the best literature of his day, called himself a man of one Book. He pursued all his studies with the one great end in view of better understanding and being more capable of teaching and explaining the Word of God. Back of pulpit power and successful pastoral calling must be a properly prepared man. He must live in the Book for his own instruction, betterment and equipment. It is said that when Sir Walter Scott was dying he requested someone to get the Book and read, and when asked "what book?" replied "there is but one Book, the Bible." So, then, the pastor has great need to read, to study, to meditate upon, and to memorize long portions of the Holy Scriptures.

Second. There are many other works that he may study with profit to himself and his people. Perhaps chief among the kind of books and works we would recommend are, Church Histories, including the lives and writings of the church fathers, those associated with or immediately succeeding the apostles of our Lord, and those engaged in establishing the church in the early centuries of christianity.

Then we would mention *Biography*.

It is well to read many biographies of those whom the Master has most signally set His seal upon, or designed to bless and use in His service.

Third. *Standard and Suitably Selected Commentaries*. Chief among the ones the speaker has found helpful and still makes continual use of are Dr. Adam Clarke's and Matthew Henry's. Clarke is critical and doctrinal and is a representative Methodist, while Henry is expository and practical in his methods. If we consult the latter frequently it is well to bear in mind he was a Calvinist, and watch that point. But otherwise as an aid to sermon preparation the young pastor will find more ready material and suggestive arrangement of sermon matter in Matthew Henry than in almost any other regular commentary. The speaker always desires to at least consult both these authorities upon a text before making use of it in public. Then too, we would refer to well written works on Christian Homiletics Moral Science and Christian Ethics. It will be found very useful and beneficial to frequently read volumes of sermons or sketches of sermons by men of recognized pulpit ability and power, though not try to copy them as a mere copyist. Do not be a parrot-like imitator. But fill your mind and saturate your soul with the sublime truths they set forth, and observe something of their methods of arrangement and presentation. It might be worthy of remark here that the pastor should as a rule be a well-informed man, having a general knowledge of the affairs of the world and the news of his time, but he should not allow himself to dissipate by careless and extensive reading of unwholesome newspaper trash, or other useless and sensational publications. It is not so much the knowledge as the love of the world that injures us. To the point is the wholesome advice of our Discipline, "Other reasons may occur why the people under our care are not better, but the chief is, because we are not more knowing and more holy." But why are we not more knowing? Because we are idle, we forget our first rule, "be diligent. Never be un-