

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

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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

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Address: Rev. P. J. Trafton, Moncton, N. B.

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EDITORIAL

A Happy New Year to All!

Another Christmas season has passed with its joy and mirth, to be followed by the ushering in of another year. The past year has been one of deep anxiety on the part of the great nations of the world, and it would seem that the coming year will find these great nations in that same condition. The unemployment situation has affected almost the entire world, and as yet this great problem continues without a solution. We do not fear the dark if God is with us. We feel the nations of the world are reaping the harvest from the seed that they have sown in the past. Jesus gave his disciples a description of the day in which we live: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring."

Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." St. Luke 21:25-26. The times of the Gentiles are about fulfilled. As truly as we are at the entrance of a new year, so are we on the threshold of a new dispensation.

What the coming year holds for us, none of us are able to say, but our success or failure in the coming year will be largely due to our own efforts. Paul wrote: "I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise." Rom. 1-14. So is every man and woman who have named the name of Christ.

Our duty to the world is clear enough. The coming year should be one of deeper devotion to God, the world seems to be going stronger in its pursuits, and why not the children of the Lord? Let us check up on our prayer life, our opportunities to witness for Jesus, our privileges of taking the right stand on all the moral questions, the joy of suffering for Christ, the privilege of being an honorable vessel unto the Lord, purged and sanctified, meet for the Master's use, prepared unto every good work. Let us make the coming year the best in our lives for Jesus and our service to humanity.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SINCERITY

I was at church a few weeks ago, a colored church, and heard the Bishop preach and pray. He prayed for sincerity in religion, and bemoaned the ease with which many people play a part without getting down to genuine and sincere piety. I took the prayer to heart and it did me good. There is a tremendous truth here, a solemn truth that shows up the cause of much of the leanness of souls and shallowness of character that plague the cause of God.

This is one great reason why we are a holiness church, why we who preach are holiness preachers, why our laymen are happy to worship with small groups and carry on amid much self-denial. It is because we have been awakened to the utter and absolute ruin that sin brings here and hereafter. Nothing is small when it shelters disobedience to God's revealed will. The light of eternity shining on all of life makes us sincere and serious. We cannot afford to play religion. Fear came upon all the early church when they saw the swift punishment that came upon Ananias for his insincerity. And it does not need to be a big thing over which we make an issue with God and defy His standards of the narrow way. The thefts of Judas were probably never large, but after he threw the switch and started down grade and away, in a few days he rushed on into treason and suicide.

William A. Quale says: "A community can endure anything in a minister better than the feeling that what his lips have to say is no criterion of what his brain is saying. That a minister is withholding conviction on any given question becomes a real crime in a leader of souls. Subtle insincerity is the demolition of a real citadel value in the ministry of Christ. Man can not fly for refuge to the broken wall, nor yet to the veneered wall. . . . Feigning is one thing against which the preacher must set his soul with clamped lips. 'I can not let my soul pose' is a motto for his interior life for every man who is pastor to the Lord's flock to write with a sword-point on his heart."—The Wesleyan Methodist.

"WHEN WE PRAY"

All the races of the human family pray. Many of them, perhaps most of them, pray ignorantly. But they pray, pray as best they know how. Jesus Christ was the first Teacher who taught men to pray in a way in which they could always have an assurance of answered prayer. He taught that prayer was the greatest power in the world delegated to men.

The greatest danger to the Christian Church at the present time is formal religion without spiritual power. This is true in the matter of prayer. Ritualistic religion is the bane of the Church. As it is practised, it is charming to the worldly minded, but the effect on spiritual life is crippling. Its influence is against prayer life. Think this over, carefully, deeply.

With four words Jesus explained how His prayer life brought power. "Have faith in God." To say prayer words without believing that God listens, and gives us what we ask for when we pray is an insult to Him. "He that believeth not God, hath made him a liar." I. John 5:10. Jesus said, "Ask and ye shall receive; for everyone that asketh receiveth." If we do not receive, is not not because that there is something wrong with our asking? James says, "Ask in faith, without

any wavering (or hesitation), in your faith. Let not that man think he shall receive anything of the Lord." Does our faith waver when we pray?

If we say our prayer words and do not receive any answer, do we ever ask God, "Search me Oh God, and see if there is any wicked way in me," that has broken the connection?

Do we love to pray for our enemies? Does the Spirit bring to our mind any one who is holding anything against us? (Matt. 5:23-24) We cannot pray for one unless we love him. God does not want us to love his evil ways, but He can help us to love him, and we will if his love is in our hearts.

When we pray, let us think of God as being within us. Our bodies should be the temples of God. (I. Cor. 3:16-17). Let us cultivate the presence of the Holy Spirit. We may practice the presence of Jesus. His presence is equal to His promises, we may have a prayer life of glorious success.

Study your Bible much to become acquainted with the promises. Commit them to memory, then the Holy Spirit can call them to your mind when you need them. It will help you to carefully study Romans 8:28.—Levi D. Johnson.

THE MINISTER AND HIS MISSION

A story often repeated and credited to Dr. Gordon tells of our blessed Lord's confidence expressed to an archangel of heaven on His return after His life on earth. He is asked how He proposes to carry on the work and He replies that His disciples will carry it forward; such men as Peter and John and James had it in their care. "And what if they fail?" the angel is supposed to ask, to which the Master replies that He has no other plan for the church period, He trusts them not to fail.

And now this work in some small parts has come down to us, and we must not fail, but we confess to a great alarm when we look about and see how worldly-minded, how given to cunning compromise, how easy with sin and trifling in their piety many who claim to be ministers of Christ have come to be.

A writer in the Southern Presbyterian says: "The old-fashioned type of minister is fast passing. The olden type was that of a man with a message. He was a preacher, a spokesman, an ambassador. He urged men to repentance for sin, to belief in the mediatorial work of Christ, to holiness of life. He was a witness. His message was the Word of God, his plea the mercy of God in Christ, his warning the wrath of God against sin. A statement from the Word was the end of all controversy. Under such a ministry men both trembled and believed.

"Now, however, the minister is not so much a witness as a worker, not so much a preacher as a plodder, not so much a minister as a manager. His great function has come to be administration rather than ambassadorship. He is an agent more than an authority. His aim is as of yore, but his art along another line. Methods are his study in place of the Word, machinery instead of the means which God has ordained, the Word, the sacraments, and prayer. He has gone into chivalry with other men rather than into a contest with sin."—The Wesleyan Methodist.

"The promises often lose their sweetness because we have been eating the grapes of Sodom. Our taste is at fault."