

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

VOL. XXXVII.

MONCTON, N. B., FEB. 15, 1930

NO. 26

The Church and Its Value to the World in its Ideals and Message.

Ward Miller, May 27
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This subject was suggested to me as a topic for a united service during the week of prayer. It suggests to me four vital questions.

I. What is the Church?

I believe that the great majority of people have an incorrect conception of what the church truly is.

To some folk the church is simply the meeting-house, the place of worship, and so, because of this misconception all their work and labor of love is lavished upon the house itself.

I would that every one should place a proper emphasis on the importance of keeping the place of worship in proper repair, neat and tidy, but when there is a misconception of what the church truly is, many times I believe money is needlessly expended on externals that should be used for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

The Church is more than the building.

To some folk the church is the crowd or number of people having their names on a church roll. I shall never forget how the invitation to "join our church" sickened my soul while I was living in sin. I am reminded very forcibly in these days of church competition for members, of Jesus' words concerning that crowd of old. He said, you remember that they would "compass both sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell." Matt. 23:13.

"MISERABLE HAPPINESS"

Some one has styled that ideal of happiness that many people have who are seeking simply happiness in their religion without regard to whether they are right with God or not, as "miserable happiness." It may not be a correct term but it is a miserable standard of religion to want to be happy and continue in sin. Yet multitudes are at our altars who simply want to be blessed. Jesus rebuked some in his day saying, "Ye seek me because of the loaves and fishes." He fed them the day before, for they were famishing. The next day they came and wanted more. They did not seem to care for the truth but for their carnal wants.

"Miserable happiness" is a self contradictory term. But it is a miserable standard of religion to make happiness its chief and only aim. There is no real happiness except in being right. All other happiness depends on circumstances. A man who is right with God has

To some the Church is the denomination to which they belong. They raise sectarian walls which to their minds effectually shut out all others.

I was looking for a good definition of the word Church a short time ago, and I found that the very word itself, The Ecclesia, is an explanation in itself: "The called out ones."

Called out of the world, with its follies and sin, separated unto God—a separate people.

Called into a sacred unity with Christ, a unity as close as that between the "vine and the branches." John 15. As close as that between the different members of one physical body, Christ Himself being the Head—this is the Church.

II. What is the Churches' Ideal?

I know that every right thinking person will agree with me when I say that the church does not set her own ideal. This is a Divine prerogative. God Himself sets the standard.

That standard is Holiness unto the Lord.

No other standard could be compatible with his own Holy character.

No other standard would be satisfactory to His children longing for likeness to their heavenly parent.

No other standard will convince the world of the reality of Salvation.

No other standard will bring us to Glory! "Follow peace with all men and Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."—Heb. 12-14.

happiness because he is holy. There is no other kind of lasting happiness. It is impossible for a holy man to be unhappy. A sure rule for happiness is to get right with God and then seek to help some one else. The unhappy man is he who has failed at these two points. Seek happiness and you will not get it. Get right with God and happiness is thrown in.—Christian Witness.

THE WILL

If thou wouldst conquer thy weakness, thou must never gratify it. No man is compelled to evil; his consent only makes it his. It is no sin to be tempted, but to be overcome.—William Penn.

Suffering becomes beautiful when anyone bears great calamities with cheerfulness, not through insensibility, but through greatness of mind.—Aristotle.

III. What is the Churches' Message?

John, the beloved, declares in his first epistle: "That this is the message."

1. "That God is light—no darkness in Him."
2. That if we live in the darkness of sin, we have no fellowship with Him.
3. That God is faithful and just and that if we meet conditions He will do two things for us;
 1. He will forgive us our sins.
 2. He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

This is the Churches' message.

IV. What is the Value of the Church in that Ideal and in that Message?

I suggest that the usefulness of the church must be along these lines:

Every effort put forth by the church to help mankind is secondary to her great commission. To be a witness in the earth.

What is the Churches' value?

Go down along the rockbound coast and ask the mariners of what value to them is the light-house?

Get a vision of the need of this world in its moral corruption and then seek to place an estimate on the value of the only saving virtue.

"Ye are the light of the world, ye are the salt of the EARTH!"

REV. F. A. WATSON

GOD'S WILL FOR ME!

"For all things are for your sakes"—2 Cor. 4:15.

And can it be that every varied scene,
Which so perplexing seems, when viewed alone,

Guided and governed by a hand unseen,
Is really working God's great will in me?

I know it must be so, sorrow and joy
Blend in the chords of life harmoniously;
One altered note forever would destroy
What in the end proves perfect melody.

How often have we seen our fondest hope,
Which seemed so bright and fair to our short sight,

Entirely crushed or changed, to give full scope
For God to work in us designs more bright.

I know His will is best; Infinite love
Can never err, or make the least mistake;
For in the crucible of trial we prove
That He is working all things for our sake.

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