

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., MARCH 15, 1930

NO. 28

THE BROKEN STANDARD.

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In Isa. 62:10, God has given to His church a definite command. He said, "Lift up a standard for the people." The individual life and character is molded and fashioned largely by standards. It is very human, but nevertheless true, that we accept the moral, mental, physical and the spiritual standards of the people in which we are obliged to live. A standard is but a rule, a mold, a pattern for the shaping of a life, a principle, an ideal. If the pattern is false or untrue, that which is shapened after it will be false or untrue. The human mind thinks largely in the way of standards. The average on any line we give but little if any attention. The man two feet in height we call a dwarf. He that is eight feet in height we call a giant. The man in rags we say is poor. He with his millions we call rich. We pity the simple, and admire the wise; smile at the dunce and envy the genius. We praise the hero and scoff at the coward; crown the athlete and discard the weakling. We welcome the congenial and detest the bore. We respect the spiritual; the athlets, the infidel, the agnostic, and the immoral, we shun. We will travel miles to hear an orator, while the man slow of tongue and of mind we pass by. All this is because of the great law of standards that govern the human mind.

We have had standards ever since man became the product of the Divine hand. It was not the lack of a standard, but the breaking of a standard that brought the fall and depravity of the human race. The death of Abel, and the downfall of Cain; the destruction of the old world, and God's wrath and judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah are but marks of a broken standard. Christ's bloody sweat and agony in the garden; His arrest and trial by a heartless and a blood-thirsty mob; His groans and anguish upon the cross, is too sure an evidence of a broken standard.

One great error of the human mind, one that seems prevalent among us, is that we do not question the standards whether they are true or false, high or low. We too readily accept them as genuine because they have been handed down to us by our fathers. We are governed by the laws of tradition. In Africa a man's wealth may be judged by the number of wives he may have. In India the spiritual standard may be, and is, largely judged by the suffering and sacrifice he may choose to endure. The standard of the early Indians was judged by the number of scalps that he wore on his belt. The principle which governed the standard was never questioned. It was the standard of tradition, it was the standard of the mass. Our thinking is in the mass; yea, we

do not think we allow others to think for us. We follow the crowd, accept its standards, because our fathers and grandfathers are in the lead just around the corner. There are thousands of Methodist, Baptist, Reformed Baptist, Congregational, Lutheran, Evangelical, Presbyterian, Nazarene, and many in other bodies who are there because their fathers were there before them. They do not question the standard or doctrine, which is to shape and mold their lives for eternity.

Men who have contributed largely to the benefit of mankind, were and are those who with unbiased minds, questioned the standard of the mass, and had courage to rise above the crowd and lift a higher and greater standard. The telephone, telegraph, wireless telegraphy, radio, steam trains, subway and elevated roads, autos, great ships, aviation, X-ray; the great advance in all branches of science, the great educational and banking systems are monuments or milestones erected to men who lifted standards to greater achievements. Men like Paul, Luther, Melancthon, Wycliffe, Huss, and John and Charles Wesley; although molded by Jewish ordinance, Catholic ecclesiasticism, and modern formalism; had courage to think, to move, to stand against the mass, and lead folk back to the original and right standard.

God commanded that a standard be lifted for the people. It was not that they lacked a standard, it was because they had a wrong standard. There are millions of books and thousands of creeds and dogmas written as a moral and spiritual standard for the people. We have Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Mohammedanism, Theosophy, Spiritism, Russellism, Christian Science, Modernism, and a hundred of other isms trying to mold and fashion the mass by their standards. What has Hinduism done for India? Behold its teeming millions groping amid the ruins and decay of spiritual darkness. Women's lives and virtue sacrificed at the shrine of man's immoral and lustful degeneracy. Girls sold for domestic servitude, and sacrificed upon the altars of immoral use. Look at her plagues, famines, ignorance, and superstitions. Consider her worship of snakes, beasts, and of idols. Look at the low moral degeneracy of her people; child marriage, the suffering of its caste system; men lying upon beds of spikes; mothers giving her child to the alligator as a sacrifice to please her god. India has her standard, but it is that of tradition, it is a low, broken standard.

One look at China with her wars and carnage, with her millions tarrying at open shrines to make an atonement for their immortal souls, is enough to convince any sane person that the

standard of Confucius has been a failure. Mohammedanism has brought darkness, despair, and a depraved state among its followers. A stream can become no purer than its fountain-head. Mohammed gained his followers with the sword. They have left death and pain in their wake ever since. Russellism has made its inroads among us. They are holding as a standard a divine revelation which they claim was given to Pastor Russell. They proclaim the dawn of a new age. They deny the incarnation of Christ, the personality of the Holy Ghost, the immortality of the soul, hell and future punishment of the wicked. They proclaim that at Christ's second advent the wicked, both dead and living, will have a chance in the great redemptive plan. They assign no place to the conversion of the world through the present agencies which God has on the earth. Modernism, dressed in the robes of new thought, comes forth personating Christianity. They deny the Divine inspiration of the Bible; but classify it with the works of Milton, Tennyson, Shakespeare and other noted writers. They deny the virgin birth of Christ, and the miracles recorded in the Old and New Testament. They deny the necessity of a blood atonement, claiming that Christ's sacrifice was exemplary. They deny the fall of the race through Adam, but claim that man is the product of evolution, and the unfortunate victim of environment. They claim that man is not justified by faith, but through self-culture we can produce a holy man. Christ is the model of the perfect man, we should follow his example, and thereby there will be a natural development from within. Such standards, although they are claimed to be born by vision, by revelation, by discernment, and by proper Christian interpretation, are but man-made and man-created standards. They are but a shadow or reflection of the true Christian teaching.

God never asked, neither has He ever intended that man should ever make or create a standard. In Isa. 59-22, God said, "I will lift up my hands to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people." From the early history of the church man has created standards to ease his troubled conscience, and justify his evil doings. God said, "My people have committed two evils, they have forsaken Me, the true and living God; they have hewn out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." The Word declares that God made man upright, but he has sought many inventions. Cain incurred the wrath and judgment of God by a self-made standard. The Tower of Babylon was and is a monument to man's carnal aspirations, and his religious error. Israel, although

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