

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

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THE FATALITY OF SIN

Rev. C. W. Ruth

In the very beginning of time God himself declared the fatality of sin, by saying, "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Gen. 2:17. And again and again, by the mouth of his servants he has said, "The soul that sinneth it shall die"; "The wages of sin is death." Ezek. 18:4-20; Rom. 6:23. And not only did he thus warn men by precept and statutes, but by a literal enforcement of a physical death penalty for the violation of his laws and commandments as contained in the decalogue. Of the sin of Sabbath desecration, we read, "The seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the Lord: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death." Ex. 35:2. Concerning the sin of blasphemy we read, "He that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death." Lev. 24:16. Concerning the sin of adultery we read, "The adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death." Lev. 20:10. And so for the sin of cursing a parent, kidnapping and murder, (Lev. 20:9; Deut. 24:7; Ex. 21:12) and numerous other sins, the extreme penalty of death was meted out. Nor has God's attitude toward any of these familiar sins changed, nor sin become less fatal.

This physical death penalty was God's kindergarten method of teaching the solemn truth that "the soul that sinneth, it shall die;" that "the wages of sin is death," and the death of the soul is a thousand times more dreadful and solemn than the death of the body. Physical death has to do with our temporal interests but the death of the soul has to do with our eternal destiny and everlasting welfare. This is why Jesus said, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt. 10:28. Physical death may mean release from suffering but the death of the soul will mean eternal suffering: a death that never dies.

This solemn truth should be regarded as a loving warning from our heavenly Father, rather than as a threat or as an arbitrary enactment of law. God does not decree nor will the death of any man; but the nature of sin itself is so horrible that death is the inevitable result,—with all its eternal consequences. "The Lord. . . is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Pet. 3:9. But men need to be reminded that sin is just as fatal today as it has ever been. It is still positively and absolutely true that "He that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death." Prov. 11:19. Because men do not realize, nor believe that sin is fatal; and because they think they can commit sin and yet escape the dire consequences, and the fatal results of sin they continue to roll it as a sweet morsel under their tongues; and as the wise man has said, "Fools make a mock of sin." Prov. 14:9.

We wish to note at least three reasons why

death is the inevitable and inescapable result of sin:

1. Because it separates the sinner from God, who alone is the source of all life. He alone is the fountain head of life; he alone is the life giver; and he alone can "make alive." No man can have union, communion, nor fellowship with God and live in the practice of sin. As was said to ancient Israel, "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you." Isa. 59:2. And being thus separated from him who is the life, and the only source of life, death is inevitable.

2. A second reason why death is inevitable is because of the inherent nature of sin itself. Just as the violation of physical laws interprets and destroys the harmony and the proper functioning of our physical organism, thus producing disease, and death, just so the transgression of moral law produces an abnormal and disintegrating condition in our moral and spiritual nature, which inevitably corrodes and destroys our spiritual life. In the language of the street, sin "thrusts a monkey-wrench into the machinery," thus demolishing all spiritual sensibility in our moral fiber. Thus we read of Nabal, "His heart died within him, and he became as a stone." 1 Sam 25:37.

3. Because in all jurisprudence there must of necessity be a penalty for the violation of law; and in justice, that penalty must be determined by the nature of the crime, and be commensurable with the guilt. "Sin is the transgression of the law: Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law." 1 John 3:4. And sin is such an atrocious crime against God and such a diabolical, and utterly inexcusable offence, that the only penalty commensurate with such an act, is the extreme penalty of death.—*The Pentecostal Herald.*

BEING LIKE JESUS

By Rev. J. S. Mitchell

The Apostle John said, "As He is so are we in this present life." Many desire to be like Jesus in some particulars, but not in some other ways. There are some who would like to perform miracles and thus get for themselves a great name. There are no doubt some who would enjoy riding at the head of a procession and having the multitude to shout their praises. Many there are who would like to be a religious leader, but to be like Jesus means more than this.

Then there are some who are looking forward to awaking in His likeness and seeing Him as He is and being like Him, who are not at all careful about being like Him in this life. This is a glorious hope that the saints have of awaking in the likeness of their Lord and being like Him when they see Him as He is. But only those who are like Him in this life will ever be thus like Jesus when He comes.

It certainly does please Christ for us to be like Him. Paul teaches us to "walk as Christ walked," and to let this mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus.

Our Lord has certainly left us a wonderful pattern to follow. Let us seek to be more and more like Jesus in this present life. Let us be true representatives of Him to the world.

1. *If we would be like Jesus we must be compassionate.* He was compassionate toward the needy. Let us keep before our eyes the pattern of Him who was so kind and tender toward the erring. When He looked upon Jerusalem, and thought of its coming destruction, He wept. When the young man turned away from Him, refusing to meet the conditions of eternal life, the Scriptures tell us that Jesus loved him. Let us be like Jesus in this particular. Some one has said that they have been sorry many times for having been too harsh, but never yet have they been sorry for being too merciful.

2. *If we would be like Jesus we must be burden-bearers.* Jesus was a great burden-bearer. "Himself took our infirmities and bear our sicknesses" (Matt. 8:17). "He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities." We are taught to "cast all our care upon Him, for He careth for us." "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ." Not many are trying to be like Jesus in these particulars. Not much to appeal to those who are seeking only for the honor that cometh from men, but a real glory for those who desire to be indeed like their Lord.

3. *If we would be like Jesus we must be pure, even as He is pure.* Jesus set us a wonderful example of purity. Pure in word, thought, and deed. A wonderful life to have all our works wrought with an eye single to His glory. Wonderful to think that it is possible in this world of impurity that we may live pure. We may live free from carnal impurity within. Think of it; Conversations free from coveteousness and evil speaking. Oh, Brother, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

4. *If we would be like Jesus we must, like Him, be always about our Father's business.* There is much of the Lord's business all around us for us to be busy about. Some of it where you work. Some of it where you visit. Some of it where you live. Plenty of it in the church. If we would be like Jesus we will not be spiritual drones. Jesus went about doing good. He never went about making mischief. He never went about spreading discouragement and other forms of evil. He kept busy at his Father's business. Let us go and do likewise.

5. *If we would be like Jesus we must be like Him in His attitude toward sin and worldliness.* Jesus said, "The prince of this world cometh and hath nothing in me." He said of His followers, "These are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." He always opposed and hated sin in every form. Jesus came to this world to destroy the works of the devil and to save His people from their sins.

In these days while men are aspiring to be great, by following the examples of others, let us strive to be like Jesus. There is nothing greater to be achieved.—*The Free Methodist.*