

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

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FOR GOD HATH CALLED US UNTO HOLINESS. I THESS. 4:7.

By H. S. Dow.

Brother H. C. Mullen's very interesting article under the heading, "Shall we change the standard or say they haven't got it?", in the last issue of the Highway, suggests to me the above text for what I may try to write here.

First, we cannot change the standard because as the text plainly states, God has set up the standard, or is the author of the call to holiness, and I know that our brother agrees with that statement by what he has said in his article, so don't think that I am criticizing him for that is not my object at all. Now let me emphasize that thought, God has called us, (and that us means all followers of the Lord Jesus Christ). Not John Wesley nor any one of the Methodist Societies nor the Nazarenes, nor Reformed Baptists but, God is the author of the call to holiness and that law is as unchangeable as any other law that God has enacted in the universe. Now we may take one of three attitudes toward any law, first we may deny the existence of law for example of gravity or heat and act as if there were no such things and the result would be we would fall and break our necks or burn ourselves severely, second, we may acknowledge such laws but have nothing to do with the law of heat and freeze to death in this cold climate of ours; third, we may co-operate with all of these God-given laws and make them serve us and derive great benefit from them. Take for example, the law of electricity. What benefits we get from it, when we co-operate with it. So also, men to take one of these three attitudes toward holiness in this present life, with similar results on their spiritual life.

First, they may deny the possibility of such an experience as holiness and regret it. Read the following verse, verse 8, and you will note the result of such an attitude. "He therefore that despiseth or rejecteth" despiseth not man but God". And no soul can despise God or His word and be saved here or in the life to come. "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord". Heb. 12:14.

Second, some folk say "Oh, yes! The Bible teaches holiness and we all believe in it but, they never obtain the experience and of course derive no benefit from holiness, but live a life beneath their privilege and unsatisfactory to themselves and God. "And how shall they escape if they neglect so great a salvation".

Third, they may, and Thank God! many have embraced the doctrine and experience of holiness and are much benefitted in the enjoyment and victory of full salvation.

But just here I want to place special emphasis on the word "us" in the text and apply it to us as Reformed Baptists. If God raised up John Wesley and other so-called holiness men and churches to propagate the doctrine and experience of holiness in their day and God appointed place, He certainly has raised us up to do like-

wise. When our fathers were driven out from their church homes for preaching and teaching the doctrine of entire sanctification obtainable after regeneration, or two works of grace, they went everywhere preaching the word, and God's seal of approval was on their work. They went out without the promise of a dollar from anyone, their faithful wives stood with them and were quite willing to share the burdens and sacrifices involved. They held meetings in tents, barns, fish-houses, school-houses, and many were converted and sanctified wholly, and became strong true witnesses, both by word and example of the grace of holiness. Churches were organized, meeting-houses were built and as they came together from time to time to worship, as Brother Mullen has already said, there was a warmth and glory and sense of God's presence among them that mightily convinced those who came in that the thing was of God and we are glad to say that in many of our churches and in our quarterly meetings and campmeetings, this condition still obtains—for God still meets with His faithful people. Of course there were always some among both the preachers and laity who while, they accepted the doctrine of holiness, never seemed to obtain the experience and lacked the glory and power of the sanctified life and were never definite on second blessing holiness either in their preaching or testimony. In process of time, many of these left us, some joined other churches, some took up other avocations as a means of living and some went back altogether, and all these who have professed holiness and did not stand true, have had a very bad influence on the cause of holiness. God will be their judge, for He hath called us and them unto holiness. He hath called us first to obtain the experience which comes only after conversion by the crucifixion of the "old man". See Rom. 6:6, Gal. 2:20, and 6:14, for we can never sustain the work of holiness or build up our churches unless our members really get the experience. Theory is not enough it will not stand the test.

Second, He has called us to live the life of holiness which means separation from all worldly amusements and questionable things and associations, which might give the enemies of holiness a chance to slander the holy cause of God. It also involves a life of prayer and devotion to God without which no man can convince others of their need of holiness.

Third He has called us to preach and testify so definitely, that our hearers will know what we believe, I fear brethren that there is a great weakness among us here. Someone has said that what this generation does not preach the next will not believe. I have wondered sometimes as I have listened to the preaching and testimonies, if our fathers and mothers would have been disfellowshipped if they had not been more definite than many of us are. I have learned from experience that to become indefinite in my preaching and testimony brings leanness to my soul, hence I know that God is grieved if I fail Him that way. We are living in an age of compro-

mise. To please men and become popular seems to be the objective of many preachers, hence the curse of card playing and dancing, which the old preachers took such a strong stand against, has now become very common among church members and many of the present-day preachers say nothing against these demoralizing amusements, but even take part in them. God has called us to preach holiness and if they want me in union meetings such as week of prayer and evangelistic services they will have to listen to holiness doctrine. I dare not fail God and bring leanness to my soul, to please men, and we who have been ordained in holiness churches are expected to be true to the doctrines of our church. I have more respect for the man who says I never had the experience and do not believe it and gets out, than I do for the one who eats Reformed Baptist bread and sleeps in Reformed Baptist parsonages and holds Reformed Baptist credentials, and yet does not ring true in his preaching and insist on folk after conversion going on to perfection or holiness.

Fourth and last, God has called us to propagate the work of holiness by using our money, time and strength in that direction. It seems to me that there is such a need for the above mentioned things in the great cause of holiness these days, that we won't have much to spend outside of it. They are calling for money from every quarter, but, let us remember the text God has called us to holiness.

Now in conclusion let me say, I believe brethren that if we renew our covenant with God and catch the vision set forth in the text and get God's glory down on our souls, and stop our running here and there looking for some new thing and spending our money and strength outside the course of holiness but, concentrate our efforts, unite our faith and mightily pray to God, make humble confession to Him and to those whom we have wronged, that God will hear and come to our help, and the streams of the waters of life that have so long been dried up in some churches, will again break out and the desert will again rejoice and blossom as the rose, and hungry hearts will again be attracted to us by the fervor and glory on the saints. For God has called us to holiness.

CAUSE FOR REPENTANCE

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead
That never to himself hath said:
"I will my own church paper take,
Both for myself and family's sake."
If such there be, let him repent,
And have the paper to him sent;
And if he'd spend a happy winter,
He in advance should pay the printer."—Sel.

They testify their lives, that is they make a profession and live a moral life; that is religion enough. Oh, what a doctrine of devils is that! It is enough to ruin the whole human race.

Brother Mullen,
Jan. 33