

# 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.

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### USING THE RIGHT MATERIAL IN THE SUPERSTRUCTURE

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*But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 1 Cor. 3:10.*

The church at Corinth had caused the Apostle much anxiety because of the fact as he told them. They were yet carnal, although he admits that they were babes in Christ; and as a cure for carnality he prescribes purging, cleansing, holiness. See verses 16 and 17, "Ye are the temple of God and the temple of God is holy". Also chapter 5, verse 7. "Purge out therefore the old leaven, (which means sin), that ye may be a new lump".

Now among other things there arose in the church a spirit of rivalry. One said, I am of Paul and another, I am of Apollos; so Paul wrote them saying ye are carnal, whereas there is division among you, for Paul and Apollos were only ministers by whom they believed, and were workers together with God and were one. Paul had planted, Apollos had watered, but God gave the increase and each would receive his reward according to his work. He also said ye are God's husbandry, or to use modern language, ye are God's form, hence God expects fruit from his church. Then the Apostle changes the figure and says ye are God's building and as a wise master-builder, I have laid the foundation and another buildeth thereon, then the words of the text, He had laid the foundation of the church, the ideal scriptural church, the church of God, the church of Jesus Christ, not a mere society organized by mere man, a company of worldly-minded, pleasure-seeking sinners of which we have so many today. Although they might go to the meeting-house on Sundays and sing and perhaps say a so-called prayer sometimes, and listen to an address from a so-called preacher. No! The kind of church that the apostle had laid the foundation of was the church that Jesus spoke of, when he said, "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it". Matt. 16:18. Jesus used this term "church" first. In the Greek language it is "ekklesia" meaning called out. So, the idea that Jesus had in mind was a company of religious people called by the Holy Spirit, separated in spirit from the worldly minded, and sinners, called unto holiness to serve and worship God. Jesus himself was to be the rock, or foundation on which the superstructure was to be built. The great Apostle Paul wrote: "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ", see verse 11. "But let every man take heed". The words of our text are a warning to all preachers and religious workers, to be exceedingly careful about the spiritual condition of

the men and women whom we receive into the membership of these societies which we call churches, because they are the material which we use in the superstructure of the church.

Notice, the Apostle mentions two classes of material, one kind typified by the words, "gold, silver, precious stones", represents indestructible material, the other, "wood, hay, stubble", represents cheap, unstable, inflammable material.

Now the reason for the Apostle's warning is very clear. Every preacher wants to make as large a showing for his work in the church and community as possible, and this is right. He should earnestly try to build up the work of God both spiritually and numerically, but, since he can build much larger with wood, hay, stubble, by reason of the fact that it is cheaper and easier to procure than gold, silver, precious-stones, he is often tempted and I fear that he often yields to the temptation, and uses the cheaper material in the work that he is building up. We all know that we can build a much larger building with wood, hay, stubble, than we can with gold, silver, precious-stones, but, the building made of the cheaper materials would not begin to give the service nor endure as long as the one built of the costlier materials. Think of the contrast between a house built of gold and one of stubble, or even one built of hay or wood. You say a house built of stubble or hay would not be satisfactory at all, and you are right. And I say that worldly-minded, pleasure-seeking, luke-warm professors, will not make a strong Christian society such as will please God, and command the respect of the community round about. Right here is where many preachers and churches make their great mistake. They receive into their membership people who do not at all measure up to the requirement of a Christian as set forth in the word of God, neither are they striving to do so, some of the men are tobacco users and are unclean in heart and life, and some of the women, while they doll up and look very nice in appearance, they lack spiritual power and fervor, and never seem to get much blessing in our religious service, nor are they channels of blessing to others. When folk like the above mentioned make up the membership of a so-called holiness-church or of any other, that church will have no grip on the town or community, neither will there be that supernatural power and glory in their meetings, that convicts the unsaved or convinces the visitors who come in that salvation from sin is with them a reality. Let me say further that when a preacher builds up a society called a holiness church with such material as that mentioned, he not only destroys the work of holiness, but often makes it impossible for the man who follows him to do much on holiness lines for years, because people without the ex-

perience of holiness never can rightly represent the doctrine and truth of holiness. Hence the apostle's warning, "Let every man take heed, how he builds". Now the apostle mentions wood as one of the cheaper materials. Wood is useful and many beautiful buildings are made of wood, but wood will not resist fire, and the apostle says, "every man's work shall be tried by fire." Now if you will allow me to make the application here, I say there are many good and useful people in our churches, that is, they are generous and helpful on some lines; but when subjected to the fiery tests of God's word, they cannot endure it, and they fail under other tests and trials, which proves that they are not gold, silver or precious stones, which represents those who have been born again and sanctified by the fiery baptism of the Holy Ghost, which has burned out the wood, hay, and stubble of their nature and perfected them in love. This kind of material the apostle suggests is good and staple building material, and will stand or endure the fiery trials of life here and also the tests of the great and awful Judgment day. Notice further he says in verse 13, "the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide, he shall receive a reward, but if any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." That is, if he can stand the fiery test of the judgment day, but be empty handed like a man barely escaping from a burning building without a thing to show for all his life's work. What a sad picture of a preacher who seeks to make a large showing here and builds of wood, hay, stubble, and in the great Judgment day sees it all disappear before devouring fire. Brethren! I prefer to build with gold, silver, precious-stones, although my work of necessity will be much smaller, I would raise up a superstructure of material that will answer to the requirement of the great architect, as revealed in his blue print, (the word of God), that will stand the fiery tests here and hereafter. I would do a work that will make it easy for the builder who follows me, to do a genuine work also. When our work is tried by fire and the chief Builder shall appear, we may not suffer loss but receive a reward. I fear that when the fires of the Judgment cut some men's bloated statistics down to the real count, that they won't recognize their work.

Final rejection of God's call to repentance seals destiny, and all men unwilling to settle for their sins at the mercy seat must meet them at the judgment seat.—Wesleyan Methodist.

"The time when you safely can quit giving is when God quits giving you."—The Free Methodist.

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