

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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But watch thou in all things make full proof of thy ministry. 2 Tim. 4:5.

(By the Editor.)

The above words were written by the great Apostle Paul to Timothy who was a minister of the gospel, and I am persuaded that if this advice was carefully followed by any God called preacher, that it would go a long way towards making him a success in his work. Someone has said that the preacher is the keyman to success in the church. The people rely so much on him for example advice and instruction. The apostle said also, "Take heed unto thyself and the doctrine; continue in them for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."—1 Tim. 4:16.

The inference here is that if the preacher fails so the people will fail also, if he is true he will also save the people, "them that hear thee".

When we think of the responsibility resting upon us of the ministry I don't wonder that the apostle wrote to the church at Corinth, "I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling". If he fails to watch in all things he might be responsible for damning some other souls as well as his own. He will need to watch his religious life and by much prayer and meditation and reading of the Word, see that he keeps spiritual and keeps his own soul blessed. If he fails here he is likely to take on a harsh spirit in his preaching, and drive people away rather than draw them to Christ. He should watch his business life lest he incur debts which he can never pay. I know that because of unavoidable circumstances such as sickness he might at some time be compelled to run in debt for a short time, but, he should retain his creditors' confidence by paying up just as fast as possible, if it means paying only a dollar or two at a time, and he should form the habit of living within his income even though that means he will be compelled to do without many things which he thinks he needs. See the article on "Honesty" on this page.

He must also watch his social life. He should not associate with unsaved worldly men in a way that will put him under obligations to them. He should keep himself free from all entanglements of worldly associates and secret societies so he can at all times reprove them for sin and ungodliness. And he should be constantly on guard against undue familiarity with the opposite sex. Perhaps nothing will blight a preacher's life of usefulness quicker than this very thing. He should not give people a chance to talk lightly of him in this way.

And lastly, he should be industrious "not slothful in business". The apostle puts it, lest people get the impression that their pastor is lazy and don't like work which will be a great hindrance to his success. It means all this and more for a preacher to make full proof of his ministry.

"Trials give an opportunity to be an overcomer."

ADVICE TO PREACHERS

With remarkable ability to say much in few words, Dr. Northrup offers the following rules for the preacher: "Don't exaggerate. Don't fool with doubts. Don't let success tip you over. Don't dabble in business adventures. Don't make long pulpit prayers. Don't imitate others—better be a poor original than a fine copy. Don't preach long sermons. Don't be cold in delivery—preach red-hot from the heart a positive Gospel. Don't tire people out with long introductions—you can spoil the appetite for dinner by too much thin soup. Don't neglect study and closet prayers—the finest human pipes give forth no music unless filled with Divine breath. Don't brawl or scream—too much water stops mill-wheels, and too much voice drowns sense. Don't scold your congregation or your burden-bearers. Don't go on after you have finished; let the clatter of the mill cease when the corn is ground."—Selected.

HONESTY

Years ago a hard-working blacksmith inquired of the district elder concerning a man on the opposite side of the district. The man said, "He has owed me a blacksmith bill for fourteen years, and I have never been able to get a settlement from him." Now the elder knowing both parties well had a clear feeling of righteous indignation. When he arrived home he wrote the accused man a letter telling what the blacksmith had said and suggesting that he pay the bill or say that he did not owe it so that a proper investigation and understanding might be had of the case. The elder received a reply to his letter to the effect that preachers sometimes got into trouble attending to other people's business, but the accused man paid the bill and thus an old offence was cleared away.

A student borrows money from the educational fund of the church or is allowed to become indebted to a school for a part of his education. He is short of money. Perhaps it is impossible for him to pay at once. The years go by. He always has need of more money than he has on hand. It is inconvenient to pay. He may not be an intentional crook. He may not have resolved that he will never pay. But he is dishonest. He has money that belongs to others. Of course there is the injustice to the creditors but beside all that there is the effect upon the one who at first was only careless. One bill neglected year after year creates a state of mind that can allow other bills to run the same. So if one is not a crook at the outset he may become confirmed in dishonesty by the disregard of one obligation.

But whatever may be said of laymen and students who do business in this way a preacher who is slippery is the worst abomination of all. The preacher who leaves obligations unmet or comes to no settlement or understanding with his creditors is an obstacle to the advancement of God's work. His case should be handled by the elder, by a conference committee, or anyone

else in authority—but it should be handled. —The Freed Methodist.

PRAYER

The following are quotations from men who learned secret of successful praying, and practiced it:

Henry Martyn—"Let me burn out for God. After all, whatever God may appoint, prayer is the great thing. Oh, that I might be a man of prayer!"

Philip Henry—"Be sure you look to your secret duty; keep that up whatever you do. The soul cannot prosper in the neglect of it. Apostasy generally begins at the closet door. Be much in secret fellowship with God. It is a secret trading that enriches the Christian. Pray alone. Let prayer be the key of the morning and the bolt at night. The best way to fight against sin is to fight it on your knees."

Robert Hall—"The prayer of faith is the only power in the universe to which the Great Jehovah yields. Prayer is the sovereign remedy."

Coleridge—"An hour of solitude passed in sincere and earnest prayer, or the conflict with and conquest over a single passion or subtle bosom sin will teach us more thought, will more effectually awaken the faculty and form the habit of reflection than a year's study in the schools without them."

Richard Cecil—"A man may pray night and day and deceive himself, but no man can be assured of his sincerity who does not pray. Prayer is faith passing into act. It is the whole man that prays. Less than this is wishing, or lip-work, a sham or a mummery."

Fenelon—"Of all the duties enjoined by Christianity, none is more essential, and yet more neglected than prayer. Most people consider the exercise a fatiguing ceremony, which they are justified in abridging as much as possible. Even those whose profession or fears lead them to pray, pray with such languor and wanderings of mind that their prayers, far from drawing down blessings, only increase their condemnation."

Richard Baxter—"It was among the Parthians the custom that none was to give their children any meat in the morning before they saw the sweat on their faces, and you will find this to be God's usual course not to give His children the taste of His delight till they begin to sweat in seeking after Him."—Exchange.

I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true.

I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have.

I will stand with anyone who stands right, keep with him while he is right, and part with him when he is wrong—Abraham Lincoln.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people."—Prov. 14:34.

Mrs. Wm. Churchill, June 84
P. F. L.