

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.—35-8

VOL. XXVIII.

MONCTON, N. B., MAR. 16, 1933

NO. 39

"WHERE ART THOU?"

The words of our subject may be found in a text in Genesis 3:9. This question was asked by God. We are glad we believe the Bible and the record given in Genesis about the creation of the world, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." After creating the heaven and the earth He created the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and the beast of the fields. Gen. 1:25, 26, "And God saw that it was good, and God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him." After God had finished His creation, He gave Adam a command that he should not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man was to have dominion over the beast of the field, the fowl of the air and all living creatures, but man was to be subject to God and thus must obey the command given by God. Dear reader, God still requires obedience to His commandments if we would keep His favor on our lives.

Eve was deceived by the devil, and broke the command of God and gave to her husband and he did likewise. Disobedience is sin, and they had broken God's law and thus sinned. Therefore, when the Lord came into the garden they were ashamed and went and hid themselves from the presence of the Lord, amongst the trees of the garden. How many folks of today who one time in their lives enjoyed the sweet presence of God are now ashamed and no longer can come with confidence into the presence of the Lord, but are rather trying to hide from God. Sin has separated and broken their fellowship with God; they no longer enjoy the strait truths of the Gospel, the secret place of prayer, the house of God, nor the presence of the Holy Ghost in their lives. Sad, indeed, yet many of this very crowd are still professing religion. "Where art thou?" Because of their sin they hid from God. "And the Lord God called unto Adam and said unto him, Where art thou?"

The question asked in our subject is of vital importance to every one of us. We should desire above everything else to know where we stand before God. How many folk in these days, if asked how it is with their soul, or if they are Christians, will answer, "I think so," "I hope so," or "I believe I am all right"! How necessary that we KNOW where we stand before God! Jesus, in His teaching, exhorted men thus, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: (Why?) because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Dear reader, we are either in one way or the other,—in the broad road is sin and worldliness of all kinds, in the narrow way we must leave all and follow Jesus. "Where art thou?" If we have Him in our lives, we know it, and sin does

not reign. John 14:6, "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." Jesus is our only hope, and men cannot be saved by doing good deeds, joining some religious crowd, but only through the blood of Jesus. If the blood of Jesus is applied to our hearts we are no longer living in sin. Jesus plainly taught that we were servants of some master, and there are but two masters,—God, and the devil.

The subject asks the question, "Where art thou?" Whose servant are you. Dear reader, not what you have been professing, but in the light of the Judgment, where art thou, now? If you live in sin, and commit sin, you are not the servant of God, but of the devil. 1 John 3:10, "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." 1 John 3:8, "He that committeth sin is of the devil." If we are children of God, we live right, or righteously; if we are of the devil, we commit sin. Jesus said on one occasion to a certain crowd of professors, "Ye are of your father the devil." "Where art thou?" Do you commit sin? If so, you are not in the narrow way. You are not a servant of God. You are not a Christian, but a sinner. My friend, there is no such a thing as a sinning Christian; no more so than an honest liar. One who lies is a liar. He that sinneth is a sinner. To be a Christian, one must be Christlike. 1 Peter 2:21, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." Then if we would be a Christian, we must be Christlike, and He did no sin (under any circumstance of life) neither was guile found in His mouth. Titus 2:11, 12, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly righteously and godly (Where?) in this present world."

Now let us stop a little while and answer the question of our subject, "Where art thou?" Dear reader, we need to answer it now before God honestly, prayerfully, scripturally and seriously: Men and women ought to call a halt in their lives, cast everything else aside for a while and search out their own hearts and see where they stand before God. Are you doing questionable things? Are you talking about some preacher or preachers? Now someone says, "Yes, because he's a preacher, don't say anything about him." I am sure that much of the trouble caused among religious people has been caused by preachers, and many of them have gone wrong and brought disgrace on the cause of God; and they should be exposed and dealt with. I do not believe in compromising with a preacher. Just because he or she is a good preacher is no reason why we should cover up their sin, let them go on and continue to bring disgrace on the cause of God. But while we deal with them, let us make sure we have the right motive in our heart, and not a

personal grudge. A preacher is not honored by our picking up every man a preacher makes and peddling it all over the market. You say, "Yes, but it's true." What if it is? The Lord did not say to tell it everywhere. Matthew tells us how to deal with him, Matt. 18:15, "Moreover, if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established; and if he shall neglect to hear them tell it to the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man, and a publican." Many folks, because a preacher doesn't just suit them, begin to sow discord among the church and talk about him and his wife, and oh, his mean children. I'm sure preachers are not perfect in every respect, but you might help him by praying for him; you might help his wife and children by praying for them instead of talking about them. Now you say, "Preachers need talking about sometimes." I know they do, but there is a time and place for it, and we need to keep the Spirit of the Master while we do it. Paul exhorts us to "speak the truth in love." I am not excusing the preachers. If we preachers and lay members talk about the preachers and saints, and make light of them around our firesides before our children, we can not expect them to see our God. Are you backbiting, and speaking evil of one another? Don't you get all stirred up and say, "I'm never going back there again," just because someone didn't do just like you wanted them to. Look out, brother! That's just what the devil wants you to do. Where art thou? Jesus didn't act that way; and neither can you and keep the victory in your soul. You say, "Oh, well, God knows my heart." Yes, He does, and He knows that ugly spirit you manifested when they didn't do things to suit you. Brother, God does know our hearts. We may make folks think we are all right and meant all right, but God knows the very motive of your heart, and why you did that very thing, and Brother, Sister, you will have to face, not what you tried to make folks think about you, but the very facts of the case, at the judgment, and there the very motive of your heart will be revealed and made known. "Adam, where art thou?" Oh, dear heart, you better answer this question now, honestly, prayerfully before God, letting the Lord search you out. David said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Scripturally, according to God's Book, does my life measure to the Book? Too many times we measure ourselves by ourselves and thus fall short of God's Book. Brother, if God's Book condemns things that are in our lives, then we will come to the judgment, be weighed in the balance and be found wanting. My brother, it will not be what some preacher says over our cold form, nor the good things said about us by

For C. Stedman D. H. 1933