

## ARE THESE THINGS SO?

The title of this article are the words found in Acts 7:1, and are in the form of a question. Since they were addressed to Stephen by the Priests, centuries have passed, and great changes have taken place; yet these words stand out as a question to the Holiness people.

Previous to the time this question was asked, God records an account of this man by saying he was, "a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost." It seems that these two qualities were the outstanding ones for success in the apostles' day. If necessary then how much more now as the hosts of darkness advance.

By studying into the above text it has caused me to apply the same question to various phases of the truth and cause for which we stand.

First when reading the history of our denomination, I notice certain truths of God's word became a fixed experience in the lives of a few people, and because of their testimony to this fact, they were set aside; hence we became a separate people. Some of those truths were "Holiness of Heart and Life", "Baptism of the Holy Ghost." Another factor in our separation is a church covenant that states definitely what we stand for. Some of this covenant reads as follows: "We will not raise any money for the Lord's cause by means of bazaars, tea meetings, suppers, sociables, or any other worldly expedient." Seemingly the days of tea meetings are past but the rest of this list still lives and is quite prevalent, and especially the last "other worldly expedients." I would say this meant anything that savoured of the world. I fear article VII of the Covenant was another means of making us separate from other people. We will abstain from all sinful amusements such as, theatre, circuses, dances, etc. Now theatre means a play to amuse spectators or a play-house. Are not too many churches at Christmas, Easter and on other occasions, made into such things? We say, Yes! Program here, program there, to amuse the world. Cannot the world be won to Jesus by following Scripture? I feel Christmas should mean more to the church than celebration. We expect children to rejoice over the spirit of Christmas. The world also goes in for its dancing, drinking, card-playing, etc. It seems that hell itself is turned loose. The church now says we must keep pace or we lose our grip on the unsaved, so let's entertain them. If this last is so what did Jesus mean when He said: "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto Me." You say that's what we are doing. If cancelled prayer meetings, half-dressed girls and women, pulpits removed, strains of waltz or two-step music goes to lift up Christ, then I am wrong. We say, are these things so? Yes, they are so.

Religious papers, daily publications are saying, "What can be done?" "Are we seeing the results we should?" While in the same issues we see where people must have their toys, rattles, and tinsel.

We know editors have their troubles, for they are between two fires and remind us of the story, "Why Mother's Get Grey". It is told two children were fighting in the home and one had the other one fastened in a room, both were requesting help from mother, so after a time she came to this conclusion, If I help John, Mary is going to get mad, If I help Mary, why John is going to get mad, I am in a muss no matter which I help, and if I don't help either, I am still in a muss. It is likely editors get grey many times over these perplexing problems, but if they would throw some of the so-called religious programs

and propaganda in the waste basket, it may help solve some of our problems.

There are a few here and there that are like Stephen; they stand alone, and consequently must be wrong. The popular vote was stone Him to death, while right goes by the board.

It has been, is, and always will be a mystery why those who wish to be like others of the world around us, cumbereth the ground in Holiness churches. If I felt some of the above things were of God and our spiritual fathers made a mistake in the covenant, and God was wrong when He said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer", I would take my trunk and move over with those that believed as I did.

Results of such times are two hours of the day spent in practice, summing up twelve hours a week. Ask those in charge of such things to come to the church for a two hour prayer meeting and see the excuses that will be handed out. Give me men and women full of faith and the Holy Ghost for my program, and you can have the other crowd.

The writer says in this same 7th chapter of Acts and the 52nd and 53rd verses: "They were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth." but he (Stephen) being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up.

This article may mean gnashing of teeth but I would rather be gnashed upon than to be one of those doing the gnashing.

This was not meant for a tirade nor a brain storm, but just facts only. Are these things so?

L. J. SEARS

## CORRESPONDENCE

Black's Harbor, N. B.

Dear Brother Trafton:

I wish to gratefully acknowledge the gifts given me by our Black's Harbour church at Christmas time. The church and Sunday school gave me \$10.00 in cash. The Sunday school class that I teach gave me a lovely leather brief case, and another class a nice shaving set. These gifts are greatly appreciated, and we thank God for a people who have the needs of their pastor at heart. When we consider the fact that these people have almost no work through the winter months, and must pay rent for the building used as a church, besides the other church expenses, we realize it means sacrifice to do any extra giving, but we pray the Lord will richly bless them in Spirit.

F. A. ANDERSON

Seal Cove, Grand Manan

Dear Highway Readers:

Just a few lines to report from this corner of the field.

We had a very pleasant Christmas and will take this opportunity to thank all who remembered us in different ways.

We had several good church services during the Christmas season, and a very profitable "watch night" service. A full house listened with much interest to good papers on the church work addresses, musical numbers etc. During the service a liberal offering was taken for the Protestant Orphanage.

Our good people here numbering some fifty or more, gave us a large donation of groceries, fowl, meats and money. A very enjoyable evening was spent at the parsonage and after prayer, the folk left us feeling more like being true to our high calling and the cause of holiness than ever before.

This fifth year of our pastorate here has in many ways been the most satisfactory and

encouraging of all. I am glad to learn through the Highway that revivals are in progress in so many of our churches. Humanly speaking this is a day of dark outlook, but present conditions may make man more susceptible to the message of Christ than in days of greater prosperity. This much we do know: God is on His throne and He never makes any mistakes. Therefore, we will trust and not be afraid.

Wishing the Highway readers a prosperous 1933.

Yours to live for Him,

F. A. DUNLOP

Wollaston, Mass.

Dear Home Friends:

My continued silence this school year may be blamed on my natural weakness as a letter writer. My thoughts have been among you even though my words have lingered behind.

I am filled with mixed feelings of late. The satisfaction of coming near the end of my college work is mingled with regret that I shall so soon be leaving so many very pleasant associations at E. N. C. It would be impossible to express the whole truth of what they have meant to me. Then, too, the anticipation with which I look ahead to a new work and consequently a new life, is seasoned with a sort of reverent fear, as I realize some of the demands that shall be made upon me in endeavoring to fulfill my duty to the Lord. I suppose this is only natural to anyone who finds themselves in similar circumstances.

I believe I am seeing in a new way, in a clearer realization, the significance of the call to which I testified when I left home a few years ago. The curtains are drawn back a little farther, and my spiritual horizon is lengthening and becoming more clear to my vision. It is a challenge to me, and I feel the Lord strengthening me for the duty ahead. "He that is for us is greater than all they who can be against us."

I am enjoying a very busy year with the E. N. C. Quartet, and the fellows are still talking of the fine time we had at Beulah last summer. We do not lack for meetings, but rather have difficulty taking care of all the calls we receive. I am pleased to be able to say that in our meetings, as also in our weekly broadcasts, we are continually conscious of the Lord's blessing upon us. I would appreciate your prayers in our behalf.

The last Highway seemed to bring a suggestion of home-sickness with it. I haven't always had the enjoyment of the Highway since being here, but Brother C. C. Patterson, of Cambridge, and formerly of Fredericton, is sending his to me now, which I appreciate very much. I also have a feeling of being left behind as I read the good reports of the work of the fellows who were here with me not so long ago. Nevertheless it lends me inspiration. Brother Murray Mullen is here this year and getting along very well.

Above all else I am praying for the direction of the Lord in the detailed plans of my work next year. I am not without a measure of anxiety to know, but where He leads I shall be satisfied to follow. I am glad for the assurance in my heart that "the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth from all sin."

Your young brother in Christ,

HARVEY BLANEY

"Many a time a glass of whiskey wrecked a ship."—Capt. of a Great Steamship Line.