

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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Editor and Business Manager - Rev. P. J. Trafton

Committee:

Revs. P. J. Trafton, H. C. Archer, H. C. Mullen
I. F. Kierstead, H. S. Mullen

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EDITORIAL

PERILOUS TIMES

The Apostle Paul in his second letter to Timothy, in the third chapter, speaks of this condition: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come" He speaks of the heart condition of mankind, and it reveals the tendency of the present age. As men drift away from the word of God and become self centered, they partake more largely of the evil spirit and its tendencies. Perilous times to the rich! James in his epistle has considerable to say on this line. We read: "Go to now, ye rich men weep and howl, for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are moth eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you." James 5:1-6.

The unemployment condition is becoming more acute as time progresses, machines are taking the place of man power; great corporations are seeking amalgamation in order to pay the same large dividends to the shareholders. Large concerns paying girls sweat shop wages, hardly enough to pay their board, in order to enlarge their buying power.

Men and women and children not having the bare necessities, and without Christ in their lives are driven to desperation. It appears to us that rich men today are not sitting easy, there is a fear for what may take place. When men are filled with hate they are hard to keep in check, unless conditions change speedily the greed of gain lovers need to beware.

James encourages the saints by saying: Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. What gracious words to children of the Lord! When Jesus comes he will set all things right. Life here is only in the beginning, and happy is the individual, if he is as poor as Lazarus, who has his hope and expectation in God, but woe to the rich individual, who lifts up his eyes in hell being in torment.

Perilous times for the deeply spiritual: There seems in man a something that has a tendency to cool off or drift from deep spirituality; not committing any open transgression, but failing to attend the means of grace which keep the fires in the soul aglow. It would seem from past

history and present conditions, there must be a humbling of spirit on the part of God's people to receive from him those reanointings which are absolutely necessary to deep piety and spirituality. We fail to wait on the Lord in special prayer, hence our loss. In Mr. Wesley's Journal we find certain items which are interesting, we give two of them here:

Monday, January 1, 1739—Mr. Hall, Kinchin Ingham, Whitefield, Hutchins, and my brother Charles, were present at our love feast in Fetter-lane, with about sixty of our brethren. About three in the morning, as we were continuing instant in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried out for exceeding joy, and many fell to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from that awe and amazement at the presence of His Majesty, we broke out with one voice, "We praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord".

Saturday, June 16, 1739—We met at Fetter-lane to humble ourselves before God, and own He had justly withdrawn His Spirit from us, for our manifold unfaithfulness. We acknowledged our having grieved Him by our divisions; one saying, I am of Paul, another, I am of Apollos: by our leaning again to our own works, and trusting in them, instead of Christ; by our resting in those little beginnings of sanctification, which it had pleased Him to work in our souls; and, above all, by blaspheming His work among us, imputing it either to nature, to the force of imagination and animal spirits, or even to the delusion of the devil. In that hour we found God with us as at the first. Some fell prostrate upon the ground. Others burst out, as with one consent, into loud praise and thanksgiving. And many openly testified there had been no such day as this since January the first preceding.

We might enlarge on this line of experiences in the life of John Fletcher, William Bramwell, William Carvasso and others, who received special anointings from God, which kept them filled with that heavenly zeal and made them irresistible in the work of God.

We fear, when we begin to count noses, talk of our large numbers, and trust in the inventions of man, to bring about success in extending the kingdom of God. Old time revivals can be had today, if we are willing to pay the price. Our souls can be kept fat and flourishing, despite the fact there are so many indifferent and cold, among and around us.

Perilous times, yes, but God is the same. Paul's admonition to Timothy is very timely for this present condition: "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of who thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" 2 Tim. 3:14-15.

Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. Phil. 3:16.

IN SPITE OF DIFFICULTIES

The great, good Jonathan Edwards was retired from his pulpit in Northampton, Mass., for Christian faithfulness. He had made the Church over which he had been pastor for twenty-five years, the largest Protestant church in the world, and though a church on the American frontier, it was the best known and most influential in all the nations of the world. The revival which began there stirred every church in Massachusetts, and in all American colonies and most of the Protestant

churches in Great Britain and Europe.

Notwithstanding all this, it would not do for this great man to hurt the feelings of some of his leading people whose children had been rebuked by Mr. Edwards for their godlessness.

The local excitement over this matter was so great that the "council" not only dismissed him, but the town voted that Mr. Edwards should never preach or lecture therein.

He was a poor man with a large family dependent upon him; his wife but forty years old, was the mother of eleven children, the youngest less than a year old when this trial came to this home. They were so poor that this cultivated and brilliant woman had to take in work to keep the family from suffering, because of their poverty.

The dislike of this eminent man was so intense in the community that his beautiful children were subjected to social ostracism and insults, notwithstanding they were children of such renowned and cultivated parents and were themselves of unusual ability and attractiveness.

After a time Mr. Edwards got a position as a missionary to a small settlement of Indians where he lived with his family for eight years. In this out-of-the-way place were about one hundred and fifty Indian families and but twelve white ones—these children had as playmates and companions ignorant Indian children, in the main, and all this when Indian wars were a reality.

Under these conditions Mr. Edwards wrote the great works which have made him famous forever, and Mrs. Edwards trained children the like of which have never been surpassed and seldom equalled.

This great man finally was elected president of Princeton, then a small institution, but died of smallpox before beginning his work there, and when only fifty-six years of age.

In spite of such a trial he protected his family from discouragement, and with his remarkable wife gave to the world a family of boys and girls of remarkable intellectual capacity and vigor, moral character and devotion to best things, that have given strength and force to the generation down to the present hour.

This great man died in poverty and practically in ostracism for his religious convictions; but what great wealth did he leave, in his children! When he died, his sons were aged 3, 13 and 20, and they were all graduated from Princeton; five of his daughters married college graduates—three from Yale and one each from Harvard and Princeton—who became eminent men.

Jonathan Edwards stood for a spiritual religion, which ever arouses the antagonism of the carnal when under the form of holiness, or any form that stands for righteousness of character and life.—Selected.

Fredericton, N. B.

Dear Brother Trafton

Since writing you a few weeks ago I have decided it is my duty to subscribe for the Highway for myself. I have always obtained it from Brother Watson, where I board, to read as I could not get along without it, but feeling, or in fact knowing, my subscription would help to spread holiness in this way, I am glad to be able to enclose postal note for my subscription.

Sincerely,

BLANCHE YOUNGE