

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

OL. XXXI.

MONCTON, N. B., AUG. 15, 1934

NO. 25

HE GAVE SOME PASTORS—EPH. 4-11

By the Editor

The apostle in his letter to the Ephesians is setting forth the various gifts which Jesus obtained and bestowed upon men, through his death and resurrection and ascension. See verse 8. Among these gifts he mentions pastors, which is one of the only two gifts, viz., evangelists and pastors, which seem to be functioning in the church today. At least we hear very little about apostles and prophets, and teachers: which are the other gifts mentioned here. As to the reason why these other gifts are not in use now, we will not discuss here. But let us notice first the object of these gifts, v. 12. First for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. This verse teaches us that the church, or believers referred to in the above words as "saints and body of Christ" are to be especially dealt with by the possessors of these gifts. Hence pastors and evangelists are justified, or by this scripture have authority for preaching to the church and for trying to lead them into the experience of perfect love. For the gifts notice are for the perfecting of the saints and edifying of the body of Christ. Note this because sometimes professors of religion who do not seem to be inclined to go on unto perfection or seek perfect love, criticise us for preaching so much to the church and say: Why don't you preach to the un-saved? You see that is the business of a pastor, to build up the church, which is God's line of communication with a lost world. So when this line is in good condition and functioning properly, it is to be expected that God will get his message through and the lost ones will hear his voice calling to them through the church, and will come, repent and get saved. Perhaps the most important office in the gospel ministry is that of pastor. The evangelist comes and preaches for a few days and does his work, and is gone, but the pastor must remain and the responsibility and success of the church rests largely upon him. The word pastor comes from the same word that shepherd comes from. So what a shepherd was to his flock in that eastern country, a true pastor is to his people. Jesus also called himself the Good Shepherd or pastor. And Peter also speaks of him as the chief Shepherd who will appear again with a crown of life for his faithful under shepherds. Let us notice a few characteristics of a true pastor or shepherd. First, he leads his flock. Jesus said, "He goeth before them," which is very suggestive. He never attempted to drive them, we are told. And to this agree the words of Peter who said, that pastors are to be examples to the flock.

A pastor cannot drive the church in Christian experience or spiritual things where he has not gone himself. No, he must lead the way. He may preach the truth, but if he does

it in a hard censorious spirit, he will drive people from him rather than lead them into a better experience. He must be self forgetful or self sacrificing and this also in money matters. Peter says he must take the oversight of the flock of God. Not by constraint but willingly and not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind. I. Pet. 5-2. Of course the pastor has a right to expect the church who called him to give him enough to support his family, and live respectably and keep out of debt. And if he is faithful in the discharge of his duties and keeps in the will of God, I believe that God who promises to supply all his needs, will keep his promise to him. If my material needs were not supplied I would take it for granted that I had made a mistake somewhere, and had missed God's plan for me, and I would locate the trouble and make adjustments, or move on if there was an opening, or go to work at some other honest job, and preach what I could on Sundays. I would not run into debt, if it were at all possible to avoid it. Of course his faith may be tested at times because of financial conditions, but if he is willing to live on simple fare, and perhaps walk or drive a horse instead of an automobile, I believe God who feeds the birds of the air and has said that "ye are of more value than the tnows," will surely feed him.

Again the pastor is admonished to "feed the flock of God," which is among you." And what shall we say about this? How can we do it? Surely this is where we pastors need help from on high. We must never yield to the temptation to scold or to take up our position behind the sacred desk to redress the imaginary or real wrongs done to us. The true pastor will always follow the example of his master who "though he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers, is dumb, so he opened not his mouth." And when he suffered he threatened not," etc. "He had no tears for his own grief, but sweat drops of blood for ours." While he must at all times preach the whole truth and stand uncompromisingly for the right, He must do so in great kindness of spirit to feed the flock of God. He must spend time enough alone with God in the secret place to hear God's voice and get God's message for the people. He cannot lean to his own understanding in this important matter of selecting food, but must study also the Word, and the needs of his people.

Again there is the matter of personal visitation and in the homes, to help erring ones and encourage disheartened ones, and pray with the sick, and sympathise with and comfort the sorrowing. And lastly to point all men to the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world. Surely being a God called, and sent pastor involves great responsibility. But if we are faithful, the promise is when the chief Shepherd (Pastor) shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. —I. Pet. 5-4.

THE MINIS

"Would I describe a preacher,
I would express him simple, grave, sincere;
In doctrine uncorrupt; in language plain,
And plain in manner; devout, solemn, chaste,
And natural in gesture; which impressed
Himself, as conscious of his awful charge,
And anxious mainly that the flock he feeds
May feel it too; affectionate in look,
And tender in address, as well becomes
A messenger of grace to guilty men."

—Cowper

MUST WE BE VISITED WITH JUDGMENT?

God is more interested in the man who cares. We are taught this in Ezekiel's tragic dream in which a man with an inkhorn was sent to mark them that sigh and cry over the evil condition of their time. So evil were the conditions that it had been decided to destroy the people; not only those who participated in the evil, but all who acquiesced and took it philosophically. The judgment was not directed at all who failed to legislate or vote against the evil, but against them that failed to pray and feel a deep concern. There is a natural law or rather a law in the kingdom of grace providing that a spirit of interest and deep, prayerful concern over an evil condition will create an atmosphere in which God can work repentance in the hearts of men. On the other hand, when inertia fills the church and good people become complacent in the presence of evil there is no remedy left but a visitation of divine judgment. Let us look at the conditions of our day and examine our own souls, that we fall not under the same judgment with the world around us which we blindly condemn. —Christian Witness.

TIMELY ADVICE

Young man, young woman, put something away for the days which are coming. Times may not always be so good as now. Your health and ability to earn may not be so vigorous a few years hence as they are now. The decay which comes with age is the lot of all. Therefore, save while you are young and strong and thrifty. What spectacle is more sad than frail old age struggling from day to day for the necessaries of life? And what an innumerable number of such misfortunes could have been averted if the fruits of younger years of industry had been garnered!

Now, let everybody try the experiment of saving something. Start with a dollar, if you have no more; it will be a nest egg. The savings bank will take good care of it, and pay interest on it. Then add another and another, as often as you can. You will find it a pleasure while in progress, and an individual comfort in old age.—Religious Intelligencer, year 1888.