

The King's Highway

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EDITORIAL

GOD'S ESTIMATE OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

"A living dog is better than a dead lion."—
Eccl. 9-4.

Perhaps the above saying by the wise man, is the most commendable thing that the Bible has to say about a dog. Almost without exception the name is used in scripture as a term of reproach. The dog was declared by the law of Moses to be an unclean animal, and was much despised by the Jews, God's ancient people. The most offensive expression they could use was to compare a man to a dog. Isaiah called the false prophets "dumb dogs that cannot bark." Greedy dogs that can never have enough. Paul called false apostles "dogs," and also Peter compares unclean wicked men who continually relapse into their sins, to dogs returning to their vomit. But Lion is spoken of in scripture as the most courageous and generous of all wild beasts. An emblem of strength and valour: To which is compared our Lord Jesus the great and mighty invincible Lion of the tribe of Juda, who conquers, and leads captive all of his, and his people's enemies.—Rev. 5-5. Yet in Solomon's comparison of a dog and lion: He declares that a dog is better. when the dog is living, and the lion is dead. He made this comparison and statement no doubt because he wanted to emphasize the importance of life. Jesus and the apostles called men who were saved, living men, and likewise those who were unsaved dead.

A few scripture references will prove this fact. John 10-10: "I am come that they might have life." John 6-53: "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood ye have no life in you." She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. Again Paul said: "You hath He quickened (saved) who were dead in trespasses and sins. Eph. 2-1. John wrote, In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. When Solomon wrote the above proverb he might have been thinking of his own experience. Thinking of the time when he enjoyed the blessing of God, and reigned over God's people as a mighty prince, and like the Lion of the tribe of Juda conquered all his foes, and all his enemies feared him. In those days he was surely a living lion. But the divine record says that Solomon disobeyed God, and married many heathen women, and God was angry with him, so that

he like a dead lion became powerless in the hands of those heathen wives, who made him build high places and altars to their gods and bow down and worship them. A great rich king surrounded by wealth and worldly splendor, but with no power or life to resist evil or do right, wholly in the hands of the enemies of God "A dead lion." Solomon isn't the only man who forfeited God's blessing we fear. We read also of Saul, Israel's first king, that he was chosen of God, anointed by Samuel, and the Holy Ghost came mightily upon him, and he was a strong, brave and successful ruler. But he like Solomon disobeyed God and lost his support, and died a poor suicide on Mount Gilboa while fleeing from his enemies—"A dead lion." There have been many men, and churches, and societies, which enjoyed the presence of the Holy Spirit, and were strong for God and the cause of righteousness, but who through disobedience lost God's blessing and the Holy Spirit, which is to our souls what animal life is to the lion. No matter how big or well educated men are or how large churches are numerically, or how well equipped in other ways, without the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit they are all dead lions. Sometimes these big institutions like the Jews of old, who had lost the approval of God, and called gentile converts dogs, look with disdain upon smaller churches or societies because they are small, and are continually barking at the sins of society and worldliness in so many so called churches. And they are always boasting of their large congregations and church edifices and equipment, and they call your attention to the size of their lion and how docile he is. His thundering voice is no more heard, in fact he never even growls at anything, no matter what wicked men do, or what his devotees or admirers do, and no one is afraid of him hurting their feelings, and everybody loves him. Well, no marvel at this. He is dead. Now the only way that these little so-called dogs or societies can be of any use at all or justify their existence is to be sure to keep alive, and to keep on barking at evil doers and their sins, because there is no use or room at all in the world for a dead dog. For there are enough dead lions around to supply all the needs that men have for dead things.

But the inspired writer says that "A living dog is better than a dead lion."

CORRESPONDENCE

The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong but to those who endure to the end, and grow in grace as long as God permits us to live in this world. Since the passing away of some of our oldest preachers and saints of God and to hear of the good and noble things said about them and the nice flowers given as they were laid away at rest, to show the love and sympathy are all nice and as it should be, but I have felt impressed to give a few flowers and words of encouragement to our older preachers who are left, that are still carrying the burdens of our denomination, and I am not fearing of puffing them up in so doing. (Ye are the light of the world) and truly we can say how their lights have shown, and are shining brighter as we set them more and more, and I praise God for such men, and how it makes our hearts rejoice to hear sinners as well as saints say what great men they are, and we cannot only say they are good men, but good men filled

with the Holy Ghost and are wholly following the Lord and truly that is what makes men good, and the closer we follow him the more distinct we can hear his voice. Oh, I want to thank God for such men, and just to see them, and the grace they show, and the Spiritual knowledge they have at Beulah, inspires and encourages one to press on, and how true the word of God is and how wonderful. (No man liveth to himself) our influence is for good or evil, and as we hear nice things said about young and old, how inspiring and encouraging, and in looking on the lives of our older preachers and saints I am convinced we cannot hide our light, or influence, or live to ourselves, and to come in contact with them, we can truly say they are Spiritually minded because they love to talk about such things; (by their fruit ye shall know them) and that is why the fruit from their lives has been so great, and their preaching so noble and inspiring, knowing it is backed up by Holy living led by God's own hand and I say God bless them and I know he will as long as they follow him, and that also means to preach Holiness, and now the word of God reminds me of two men, so I feel a few words of warning to our younger people and preachers. Don't forsake and make fun of the counsel of our older preachers, remember Jeroboam and what became of him, also what a great man Saul was until he forsook the counsel of God, and what became of him. So dear brothers and sisters I feel the counsel of God (comes first) and these older preachers and saints will keep us younger ones in the way of true Holiness, and God will find ones for their mantles to fall upon, when God sees best to call them home, and I know Heaven will be brighter and better with these dear saints there, so I feel encouraged to press on with Jesus to fight for us and to love us.

Yours for Holiness,

HIGHWAY READER

Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord.—
Isaiah 43-10.

What an honor, what a glory,
That is given now to me;
I may be a faithful witness
Of the grace of God to me.

He has saved me by His power,
He has kept me by His grace.
He will be my Friend and Saviour,
Till I see Him face to face.

He can witness when we passeth,
Through the waters dark and cold.
That the waves can not o'erflow us
For our hand in His He holds.

We can witness when He calls us
To pass through the fire too,
That His grace is still sufficient
If to Him we will keep true.

We can witness that our God is able;
He will be our Guide and Friend.
He will work if we will let Him
On His love we can depend.

For He said, "I have redeemed thee,
I have called thee—thou art Mine."
And this witness is faithful
Given by God's word divine.

F. E. ROGERS

There is no place in Hell for Holiness and
no place in Heaven for Sin.