

# The King's Highway

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## EDITORIAL

### BUFFETED FOR YOUR FAULTS

"For this is thankworthy if a man for conscience toward God endure grief suffering wrongfully.

For what glory is it if when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if when ye do well and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God." I Pet. 2:19-20.

The Apostle in the above scripture speaks of two reasons why Christians suffer. First, he suffers wrongfully for conscience toward God. Or as a martyr. And the apostle declares "this is thankworthy". That is, he deserves thanks for so suffering, for Jesus' sake, or for the sake of his convictions, and faith in the Lord Jesus, "If he take it patiently", and furthermore he says, "this is acceptable with God". Of course if he does not take it patiently, but shows a spirit of retaliation, he deserves no thanks, and is not approved of God. While it is true that very few if any in this country undergo any physical suffering now, at the hands of others for their stand for righteousness, because of good laws that protect our persons and property, which the martyrs of old did not have; yet I believe that many do suffer mentally, and among these are young people who are in high schools and colleges where their environment is not conducive to godly living, and as Christians these young people cannot participate in the worldly pleasures such as dancing, card-playing and theatre going, etc., that the unsaved indulge in so much. And because they refuse to do so, they are soon singled out and ostracized and made to feel that they are alone, and not wanted. And just here is where some fail, for rather than stand alone for what they know is right, they compromise with evil, to please their associates, and lose the favor of God, and are backsliders in heart and life. I think I have heard of preachers who one time preached the Wesleyan and Scriptural doctrine of holiness, but who when they found that their preaching displeased many folk who would not live up to the doctrine, and to continue in such preaching meant to suffer some for the truth, they compromised rather than "suffer wrongfully for conscience toward God." And the result has always been a barren ministry or leaving the profession altogether. Then again there are thousands of others who are just preaching to please and entertain a carnally minded world loving pleasure, seeking congregation, who know nothing at all about sacrifice or "suffering for right-

eousness sake" but are having a soft fat time of it. "Blind leaders of the blind". But Peter says God has called us to suffer for the truth, "for Jesus suffered for us leaving us an example that we should follow in his steps". See verses 21 to 23.

Then the second reason that God's people suffer, that the writer mentions is. "Buffeted for your faults". Notice he does not for your sins, and yet they may be sins, or only blunders, or mistakes, made by good people who thought that they were doing the thing that was best for all concerned, but perhaps they did not take time to pray enough to ascertain God's will in the matter. But, they did the wrong thing or failed to do the right thing, and were faulty, and are buffeted, or they suffer for it. Now many at this point are inclined to be impatient and to put the blame for their suffering on someone else, which is a very wrong thing to do. No, they should suffer patiently, the apostle says. And then, they deserve no thanks, for it, because they are only being buffeted for their faults or getting what they deserve.

But whatever the nature or cause of our suffering is, there is only one way out of our troubles and that is the right way, the way of duty, God's way, and not to compromise in any way with evil or evil-doers to save ourselves. But ever follow the example of our Lord, "Who when he was reviled, reviled not again, when he suffered he threatened not, but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously". Verse 2, 3. And let all who are at fault humbly confess their faults one to the other, and do their best to rectify their mistakes, and let all sufferers continually look to Jesus in prayer, and lean on him, for strength. And encourage our hearts in the Lord, and patiently await his time, who will finally deliver us. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."

### WHEN CAN WE BE MADE HOLY?

By Commissioner S. L. Brengle

A bright young soldier got up in one of my meetings several years ago and said, "Since the Lord converted me I never wanted any bad thing, but there was something in me that did."

A little boy of my acquaintance got blessedly saved, and was very happy and good for some time. But one day he came to his mother, and said, "Mama, I'm tired of living this way."

"Why, what is the matter now?" asked the mother.

"I want to be good all the time," said the little fellow. "You tell me to go and do things, and I go and do them; but I feel angry inside, and I want to be good all the time."

Both the young man and the boy were converted. Each wanted to be good, but each found in himself something wrong, and he knew that while that something remained he was not holy. However correct the outward life might be the heart was not clean. This is the experience of every converted person who has not pressed on into holiness, and it corresponds to the scripture in which Paul says, "When I would do good, evil is present with me."

When we are converted our sins are forgiven, we feel a sweet peace within, we love God and man, we want to do good and be good all the time, we have power to do good and to overcome bad habits and temptation, but there is still something in our hearts which needs to be removed before we are holy. That something within the Bible calls "the old man." It is the old nature which gets angry when people or things do not suit us, that is deceitful, and proud and unclean,

and disobedient, and silly, and selfish. Of course conversion gives a great blow to this "old man," subdues him, and makes him behave himself so that he no longer acts so badly as he once did; but he is still alive and watching his chance to get the victory again. And, sad to say, he often does get the victory, causing converted people to do and say things which are wrong and which grieve and quench the Holy Spirit. The "old man" causes quarrels and jealousies, and envyings and evil speakings, in churches and in corps, and leads to backslidings of all kinds and the ruin of many Christian lives. Paul had a corps that was greatly troubled in this way. (See 1 Cor. 3.)

Before we can be holy this "old man" must be put off, this evil within must die, this seed of all sin must be destroyed; and this is something that can and does take place just as soon after conversion as we see the need and the possibility of its being done and come to Jesus with all our heart and with perfect faith to have it done.

Some people say that we can not get rid of this evil nature until we die; but we must stick to the Bible and believe what that Book says. And the Bible certainly teaches that we can be made holy in this life. The Bible says, "Be ye holy"; and that means now, not after death. If a man says to his boy, "Be honest, be truthful," he means, Be honest and truthful now, for this world, not in heaven only. And so God means that we must be holy here and now.

Again, the Bible says, "Put off \* \* \* the old man, which is corrupt \* \* \* and put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:22-24). We are told to "put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth." And we are told to "be filled with the Spirit." All this to take place now.

We read of the disciples who "were all filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:4) and of "Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 6:5), and of believers whose hearts were purified by faith (Acts 15:9) long before they got to heaven. God is no respecter of persons; and just as He gave this great blessing to the early Christians He will surely give it to us when we give ourselves fully to Him.

I shall never forget how one Sunday afternoon, after hearing of the possibility and blessedness of a pure heart, a beautiful girl of sixteen walked straight up to the penitent-form, fell on her knees, and lifting her face to heaven with tears told the Lord how she wanted a clean heart filled with the Holy Spirit just then. She saw that she need not wait, but that now was the accepted time. And Oh! how God blessed her! Soon the smiles were chasing away the tears, and the joy of heaven was shining on her face. Years after I found her on the platform, a lieutenant, with her face still shinging and her heart still cleansed.

And so, my dear young comrade, this priceless blessing may be yours. Jesus has died to purchase this uttermost salvation, and it is your heavenly Father's will for you, just now. Have faith in God, give yourself utterly to Him, even now, and begin to seek the blessing with a determination never to stop seeking till it is yours, and you shall not be long without it. Praise the Lord!

"Savior, to Thee my soul looks up,  
My present Savior Thou;  
In all the confidence of hope  
I claim the blessing now.

"'Tis done! Thou dost this moment save,  
With full salvation bless;  
Salvation through Thy blood I have,  
And spotless love and peace."

—The Free Methodist.