

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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EDITORIAL

SOME THINGS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS IN A HOLINESS CHURCH

When I say "HOLINESS CHURCH", I mean a church such as is spoken of so many times in the New Testament, such as Jesus came, suffered and died to establish. We will find such a church described in Paul's letter to the Ephesians, ch. 5:25-26-27, where he says Christ gave himself for the church that he might sanctify and cleanse it, etc. That he might present it to himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Now this is the scriptural requirement of a society called "the church of Jesus Christ". Notwithstanding very few societies called churches we fear will measure up to the above standard. A most serious feature of the question is that very, very many religious bodies are making no effort apparently to meet God's requirement of a church, namely, "That it should be holy and without blemish."

The first condition that we mention as essential to a church as described above is, that the members of such a church must have a Christian experience. By that, I mean they must be born again. Many so-called churches today are receiving members who are strangers to grace. They have their names on the church book, and help to support the society and are often members of the various boards to direct the affairs of the church: but they never have been converted. When the early church wanted deacons to have the oversight of their business they chose seven men not only converted but also full of the Holy Ghost. Acts 6:3.

This leads us to say that another qualification necessary to success in a holiness church is that all members holding office or responsible positions such as pastors, deacons, stewards, trustees, or Sunday School superintendents and teachers etc., should surely be sanctified wholly and Spirit-filled as well as converted. Many churches who were once noted for spirituality, and evangelistic zeal, and were recognized by the people of the town or community as a great moral force for righteousness, have greatly deteriorated and lost their standing with God and men because they allowed men and women to fill the offices of the church who did not have an experimental knowledge of holiness. In some cases they might accept the theory of holiness, and possibly refer to the experience occasionally, but unless a preacher or teacher is living in and enjoying the "fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ" they will never lead another soul into

that experience. Water will not rise above the fountain head and when the water at the fountain head is low the stream is sure to suffer also. It is only when the gospel is preached or taught with the "Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven" that it bears fruit in the hearts and lives of those who hear. Not only the life of holiness must be preached: but the doctrine also must be taught and continually kept before the people, or they lose their vision, and definite testimony, and grieve the Spirit and gradually the joy and glory which ought to characterize a Holy Ghost filled church departs, and that church like Sampson of old keeps on shaking itself but the sad fact is the Lord has departed. Then the people generally lose their interest in that church, and the attendance falls off, and in order to keep their interest up the church and pastor often resort to means of entertainment, as they say, to hold the young people, which do not contribute to their spiritual life, and on the whole are a miserable failure. If we are to have success in sustaining and promoting the work of holiness in our churches: our members will have to embrace the doctrine and experience of the baptism with the Holy Spirit: coming and abiding upon the church after conversion. It was that experience that made the first church organized by our Lord Jesus Christ the mighty power and success that it was. Inasmuch as we cannot improve on God's methods in doing things to carry on his work we ought to realize that the glory of the presence of the Holy Spirit abiding on the church will continue to be the greatest agency in drawing people together and convicting them of their need of salvation. I know that forms of entertainment, and social activities will attract the worldly-minded, pleasure-loving crowds as they do in theatres and play-houses: but those things do not convict souls of their need of Jesus. Only the Holy Spirit can do that. Jesus said when he the spirit of truth is come he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. John 16. When he has his way in our hearts and churches, most of our problems will be solved. Howbeit when he the Spirit of truth is come he will guide you into all truth. John 16:13. Then we will be successful.

HOME INFLUENCE (Continued from Page 1)

shattered faith and a hardened spirit. We have known times when parents have unwisely criticised God's servants and church officials in the presence of the family so as to result in disrespect for the same, and consequent lack of faith in Christian profession generally.

The world boasts of the products of its schools and universities and we would not say it nay, but we are of the opinion that the home that sends out, to grapple with life's problems, boys and girls of staunch moral and Christian character and who will stand firmly for justice, truth, and righteousness, is the greater benefactor.

How many there are of the world's greatest who do not hesitate to unflinchingly testify that, to the influence of the home and mother, they owe the measure of what they have been enabled to accomplish.

We are in an age when home life is depreciated. Apartment houses and restaurant, boarding house and no family, are gradually taking the place of that normal and ideal institution which many love to remember as home. It is said, "When the home fails, the nation fails; for the home is the nation's greatest asset". Therefore we must endeavor to maintain the high standard

of home life, as encouraged by the word of God.

Let us keep the home fires burning; and be not weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

"Do you wish the world were better?"

Let me tell you what to do.

Set a watch upon your actions,

Keep them always straight and true.

Rid your mind of selfish motives,

Let your thoughts be clear and high,

You can make a little Eden,

Of the sphere you occupy."

—E. W. Wilcox.

NOTE: We are glad to print this excellent article from the pen of another of our preacher's wives. Our readers are enjoying these articles and letters from our good women. We have several in this issue. We hope they will continue to come. So let us have some more for next issue, which will be the Easter number.—Editor.

SOME THINGS TO BE LEARNED AND REMEMBERED

If the humble Christian would imprint upon his heart a few simple, practical matters which come into everyday life, and make a point to act constantly upon them, he would find himself growing in grace, and able to withstand in the evil day.

1. He should learn to distinguish between temptation and sin. Temptations are from the evil one, and come in the form of external suggestions; while sin is a personal act.

2. He should learn to distinguish between the fact of salvation and the joy of salvation. The fact of salvation remains unchanged so long as our faith reposes on the promise; but the joy of salvation is not uniform, on account of the variable state of the emotions.

3. He should learn that true watchfulness is not an effort to fight off Satan so much as calm looking unto Jesus, who alone can destroy the works of the devil.

4. He should learn to distinguish between the emotional variations of the mind, and vacillations of heart fidelity. The emotions may, and will, vary, while the heart remains unswervingly loyal to God.

5. He should learn that high spiritual altitudes are reached through low places. Ascent is gained through descent. The highest place is in the lowest valley.

6. He should learn that the power of God which saves him, is the power in him to save others. We shall fail to lead others above the level of our own experience.

7. He should learn that the only way to make straight paths for his feet is to look unto Jesus. A steady gaze on Him makes the walk uniform and the heart glad. If you would be confused, look only around you; if you would be miserable, look constantly within you, but if you would be triumphantly happy, look unto Jesus.

These things learned and remembered will make us that we be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge and love of God.—Wm. McDonald, D. D.

—Herald of Holiness.

INTEREST

Interest in your work is the best evidence in the world of your sincerity for service. When time hangs heavy on your hands and you can see no chance for progress or promotion—when your interest in your work lags, it is your duty to get interested or get out.—Van Amburgh.