

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

THE ORGAN OF THE  
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SPECIAL NOTICE

All correspondence for The Highway should reach us before the 12th and 25th of each month. Address: Rev. H. S. Dow, Moncton, N. B.

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EDITORIAL

"THAT MAN OF SIN" II Thes. 2:8.

There has been much speculation in religious circles in recent years, about the "Man of Sin" that the apostle Paul speaks about in his letter to the Thessalonians. Many writers and religious teachers have been trying to locate this strange person for many years.

Hence, when any notable man made his appearance, who was conspicuous in world affairs, and seemed to be wielding a great influence over men, and that to their religious hurt, he has been dubbed "the man of sin". Some folk have thought that the Pope of Rome answered to the description that the apostle gives of that remarkable character. Others thought surely that the Kaiser of Germany was the man during the world war, but when he was beaten, and had to leave his own country, his popularity wained.

Next the eyes of these modern prophets were turned on Mussolini and later on Adolf Hitler, and I don't know how many others, or who will be the next victim of the spotlight of their prognostications. To this writer it seems almost absurd for any one to pick out any one man, however conspicuous or influential he may be in religious affairs of the world, and try to make him answer to the descriptions that the apostle Paul gives of the "man of sin", or that the apostle John gives of the antichrist.

We would not be too dogmatic on this subject but we are strongly inclined to believe that the apostles mentioned above are not speaking of any individual in particular; but that they are using figurative language in describing a spiritual condition which perhaps existed in religious circles in their day and has been waxing, and waning in the religious life of the world ever since. When the spiritual tide of the church is ebbing the spirit of antichrist or of the man of sin increases, and vice versa. If I were asked to give my opinion of religious conditions today, I would say, that generally speaking the spiritual tide in churches is ebbing, and that the spirit of antichrist is waxing worse. But in speaking of "that man of sin" again, let us notice that the apostle in his writings frequently personified sin, I mean the principle of sin as distinguished from any act of sin. In other words he speaks of our depraved nature as "Our old man". In Rom. 6:6 "Knowing this that our Old Man is crucified with him that the body of sin might be destroyed." And again, in Eph. 4:24, he writes "Put off concerning the former conversation the Old Man" etc. Also he writes to the Colossians, "Seeing ye

have put off the Old Man with his deeds". So where the apostle speaks of "a falling away," and the man of sin being revealed who opposeth, and exalteth himself above all that is called God, and is worshipped, and sitteth in the temple of God, etc., we believe he is prophesying of the decline of spiritual life in the churches, and of that subtle and potent influence of the carnal mind, or "old man" in exalting men with their human programs which are being used to build up their societies or churches numerically, and keep people coming to church, and being entertained with social activities plays and shows etc., while the Holy Ghost is completely crowded out until he has no place to work on the hearts of the people to make them feel their need of Jesus or His salvation. And the result is that years pass, and not a single soul gets saved in many churches with thousands of members while they boast about their wonderful success and increase in numbers etc. And furthermore, they deny, or ignore the Deity of Jesus, and His meritorious atonement, and degrade him to the level of a mere man. And instead of lifting him up and worshipping him as the great panacea for the ills of sin sick society they set up their modern societies in the churches which emphasize social life, intertainment, joining the churches, and clubs, etc. And like backslidden Israel of old for whom Aaron made the golden calf for them to worship. They say these be thy gods, oh Israel, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt. How much we need some more men like Moses to smash these things, and to lead the people back to God, and Christ again. Perhaps if we had better spiritual eye-sight we could see in many of these modern societies. "The antichrists" of which John says there are many, already working by which we know that it is the last time. These things that look so good, and seem to be doing so much good, and yet fail utterly to bring those who belong to them into vital touch with Christ: but leave them deceived, dead in trespasses, and sins, without the knowledge of God in their hearts, and attending movies, smoking cigarettes, and tobacco, drinking beer, etc., but believing all is well with their soul because they belong to the church societies. Oh! brethren I think we don't need to wait any longer for the "man of sin" or antichrist to come, for I believe he is here in our midst already, and multitudes are worshipping him in the temple of God (the church) and the most serious feature of it all is so few seem to recognize this awful spirit, which Paul says is after the working of satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved. Surely these words describe the religious condition of our day. But read on, "And for this cause God will send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie. That they might all be damned, who believe not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. II Thes 2:9-12. Notice this spirit works among those who have had light, and truth, and have rejected them to take the easy way of pleasure, and unrighteousness.

But in opposition to this the apostle points out the way of salvation and gives thanks to God for those who are saved. See verse 13. "We are bound to give thanks always to God for you brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth". So will we thank God for the way of truth which is "sanctification of the Spirit". And may He help us to walk in it, preach it, and lead others in the way that they might be saved.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MAKE YOUR CHURCH A SUCCESS?

1. Have you been as spiritual as you should have been?
  2. Have you attended every service possible for you to attend?
  3. Have you done your part in song, prayer, and testimony to make every service a success?
  4. Have you prayed as much in secret for the church as you should have prayed?
  5. Have you been a faithful tither that your church might succeed financially?
  6. Have you dwelt in such unity and harmony with every member of the church that it would help it to succeed and not fail?
  7. Have you joined the whole local church (Sunday-school, Young People's Society, Missionary Society, prayer meeting, Sunday services of worship and the evangelistic program) or just a little part of it?
  8. Have you so joined the whole church that you really feel that the local church and general cause are yours and that you must faithfully support them?
  9. Have you spoken so well of your church to the outside public, that what you said would be a contribution to the growth and success of the church; and not a hindrance?
  10. Parents, have you attended the Sunday-school and seen to it that your children also attended?
  11. Have you kept your tongue from evil and gossip?
  12. Have you kept your soul so sweetened with the grace of God that your life brings conviction to sinners?
  13. Have you the Bible experience of salvation and entire sanctification?
  14. Have you prayed, fasted and wept for the success of the local and general church?
  15. Have you looked to your pastor as the "Lord's anointed" and to the members as the "people of God"?
  16. Have you kept blessed in your soul?
- We have a great responsibility! Shall we not see to it that our church is a success and do our part to help make it so?—Church of Christ Advocate.

ETERNAL SECURITY

The Lord is our Shepherd, we need not fear,  
Tho' the skies be dreary and clouds bend low;  
He leadeth us on in pastures green,  
Where streams of mercy around us flow.  
He restoreth our souls when sore distressed  
And we walk in the valley pressed down with woe;  
We know He is ours, we trust His grace,  
He shields our lives from every foe.  
When our earthly friends are strangely cold,  
He keepeth us safely from worldly dross;  
Our cup of blessings is over full,  
When we rest securely beneath His cross.  
As we stand at the portals of His new year,  
We're safely sheltered within His love;  
We know He will safely guide us Home,  
No want shall we know, He is always near.  
—Matilda Walker Hunter.

A DONATION

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E. R. B.