

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— 35-8

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EVANGELISM AND PRAYER

Evangelism is fundamental to the spiritual prosperity and growth of the church. It is when the people of God go forth as ministers and laity to tell the good news and persuade men and women to turn from their sins to salvation that the example of the early church is being followed and that a beginning is being made toward the carrying out of the Great Commission. Occasionally we find a group of people satisfied to have a church in which to worship but with no interest in the spread of the gospel. They have lost the whole spirit of our religion. Christ came "to seek and to save that which was lost." His true followers are continuing His work.

The two great means of evangelism are, first, the public proclamation of gospel truth and, second, the use of individual effort and persuasion. The first method, which is truly of great importance, has monopolized our conception of evangelistic enterprise. Individual effort to bring others to the Lord Christ is largely neglected. Many professed Christians do nothing personally to turn others to God. They are apologetic in their attitude and half-ashamed of their profession of religion. They are passive instead of being active. They weaken the evangelism of the pulpit by the lack of personal cooperation. The preacher who can make evangelists of all those who profess the faith will find general evangelism and revival work easy, other things being equal.

There are means to evangelism. All the proper ones should be used. For God expects us to do our part.

Organization is useful. How foolish is the preacher who imagines that he can do alone what needs to be done! How wise the man who is the general of his church, leading them on to accomplishment!

Whatever there is in any personality or in the individual's place in the community that can be used toward evangelistic ends ought to be so used.

The preacher will do well to prepare himself to his utmost that the gospel claims may be presented with intelligence. This is of very great importance. Often the personal worker has brought the subject upon whom he is working to the ministry of the pastor or evangelist as a part of his effort for the salvation of that soul. It is indeed well if the preacher allows no disappointment.

Some make use of what they call "psychology" and some are sensational in the manner or substance of their preaching. Perhaps such means are over-used and over-done. The most lasting and substantial work is out of an emphasis upon the plain and fundamental teachings of God's Word.

But we have been speaking of human means. Where does the divine come in? Has God no place in this program? Ah, He has the central place. Evangelism which neglects the divine will be but a poor human affair and this

though the gifts and organization be great and though the results are apparently great. Merely human evangelism can not bring permanent results. This is God's work. He must be in the center of it all.

This leads us to the consideration of prayer. If God is needed, then everything to which He objects must be removed.

Sin: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

Compromise: That questionable thing must be put away.

Indifference: If we do not care for a revival, or do not care very much for one, then the Lord can not trust us with the spiritual awakening which we need.

There must be no feeling of self-sufficiency. The new light must be met.

There must be perfect obedience.

All these things are preparing the way for prayer and in fact they are prayer; for "prayer is the soul's sincere desire." It may be worked out and groaned out as well as put into words.

But pray. Do not let anything take the place of this or crowd this out. It is the heart coming to the Lord, burdened for the interests of the Kingdom, that will not be denied.

Pentecost was a climax of ten days of prayer. The famous sermon of Jonathan Edwards which was followed with such mighty results followed a whole night of prayer. The greatest revival of modern times, that in which Mr. Finney was converted and in which he became the central human figure, was born in and accompanied by much prayer. The great Welsh revival was characterized by little preaching but a mighty tide of prayer.

Sometimes we lament the passing of great preachers. Well, we may. But just remember that we have a greater dearth of effective praying than of good preaching. Not being all called to preach, there are some of us who can do little about the poor preaching; but having all been called to pray, we can do something about the poor praying. But will we, and when?—The Free Methodist.

A GIANT EVIL

One of the greatest modern evils that has already assumed giant proportions in this nation is the cigarette. Last year the United States revenue taxes were paid on 111,763,441,149 cigarettes, this being an increase of about 8,000,000,000 over the year before. When we consider that there is a body-destroying poison in every one of these, and when we consider that there is a character-destroying poison in every one of these, and when we consider that multiplied thousands of young girls are among the chief consumers of this slow-but-sure poisoning drug, and when we recall that thousands of little boys, hardly in their teens, are annually added to the list of smokers, it does seem that men who have become addicted to the habit would turn against it as they would a rattlesnake!

—Alabama Christian Advocate.

THE BRANCH AND THE VINE

Rev. Alfred Cookman

"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit he purgeth it that it may bring forth more fruit."

Observe here, the branch is in the vine, as the believer is in Christ. He derives his spiritual life from Him. He partakes of His nature. He bears fruit, and yet the Saviour speaks of the need of purging, or cleansing, that he may bring forth more fruit. Is not this in harmony with our own convictions and consciousness? Do we not believe, do we not feel, that if we were holy we would be more useful? Benjamin Abbott, when forty years of age, experienced religion. A preacher, visiting him one afternoon, said: "Brother Abbott, the Lord has a greater blessing in store for you yet. He will sanctify your soul, as He has freed you from condemnation." His reply was: "I will have it right away." Going down on his knees he never ceased praying until he found it. As soon as he had found it he sprang from his knees and began a revival, and his labors for the Lord continued twenty years. Some one says, the devil never had a more difficult enemy to deal with in America. Now, if this cleansing is necessary to our fruit-bearing, it is reasonable to conclude that we may realize it now, for God expects and requires us to bear fruit now. I know that some think and suggest that death completes this work of our salvation. Is death, then, mightier than the power of Jesus? This influence of the Spirit to the truth of God? What is death? Is it not the absence of life, just as darkness is the absence of light? It is nothing, and can this nothing destroy sin, the greatest of some-things? But sin may be destroyed.

PRESENTATION TO PASTOR

The members of the Reformed Baptist Church met recently at the home of their pastor, Rev. F. A. Watson, and Mrs. Watson, to bid them an informal farewell before their departure from the city. Mr. Watson was presented with a gift of money, the presentation being made by Sheriff C. N. Goodspeed, who expressed the hope that Mr. Watson would return as pastor at some future time. Mrs. Watson was given a "shower" of linen by the ladies of the Church, who also served refreshments.

Mr. and Mrs. Watson have become greatly endeared to the congregation of which Mr. Watson has been pastor during the past seven years, and their decision not to remain longer is sincerely regretted by very many. Mr. and Mrs. Watson and their daughter, Miss Gertrude Watson, expect to leave next week for Beulah Camp Grounds, and to go from there to Beals, Maine, where Mr. Watson has accepted the pastorate of the Reformed Baptist Church.—Gleaner