THE KING'S HIGHWAY

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EDITORIAL

THE GRACE OF LIBERALITY

Therefore as ye abound in everything in faith and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. II. Cor. 8-7.

The apostle is commending the church at Corinth for many things which he mentions in the foregoing scripture, but is evidently trying to show them that they are short in the grace of liberality. In order to give them an example of the grace of liberality, he cites the Churches of Macedonia which he says, "that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality." For to their power I bear record, yea and beyond their power they were willing of themselvespraying us with much entreaty that we should receive the gift, etc. People give of their money to various things such as churches, missions and charitable institutions with various motives, and for various reasons. No doubt the majority give with a good motive, because they want to help others. Some perhaps give to receive praise from men, and others because they are expecting something in return; but people who have much money can do these things without any grace in their hearts, because it does not cost them anything

But notice what the apostle says about these churches in Macedonia which had abounding liberality. He says that they were willing of themselves to give beyond their power, praying us with much entreaty that we would receive their gift, and this they did when in great trial of affliction and deep poverty.

It takes the grace of God in our hearts and a strong sacrificial love on our part for the cause of Christ to cause us to give like these Macedonians, viz., beyond our power. I suppose givers may be divided into three classes. First, those who just give at random or as they are persuaded to give by someone who is interested, or who is collecting for some cause. Second, there are those who give regularly of their means to the support of the many phases of church work; but these never, or seldom distress themselves by their giving. They buy what food and clothes and other things that hy need, and perhaps many things which they do not need, or could get on comfortably without. They buy new hats, coats and dresses with the changing seasons, because it is the custom. Of course they think they have to wear silk stockings, no matter how poor they are, they would not be seen

wearing cotton hose because they are out of style. I think I have heard of some of these people who think they are good supporters of the church, even going to the beauty parlors and paying several dollars to have their hair crimped, or get what they call a permanent. Can you imagine a child of God, a lover of Jesus and of lost souls for whom Christ died, spending money on a fad that is simply sinful conformity to the world, while millions of souls sit in heathen darkness because there is no money to send missionaries to them with the gospel? Can you fancy a professing Christian being so inconsistent. I am told that this sinful waste of money used to follow a foolish fad is being done by many church members. These surely are not giving like the Macedonians, beyond their power. These Macedonians represent the third class of givers. They sacrifice some needful things, such as food and clothing, for the sake of having something to give to those in need. Note also they were in a great trial of affliction, and deep poverty. And they entreated the apostle with great earnestness to receive their gifts.

Now the secret, or cause of their liberality is found in verse 5. It reads, "they first gave their ownselves to the Lord. Ah, that explains their liberality, sacrificial love, and contributions to the work of God. And if we could induce all church members to do as these Macedonian Christians did, namely, give themselves in entire consecration to God for heart cleansing, then conformity to the fads of the world would be a thing of the past. And all our financial problems in our churches and in our foreign work would be solved. There would be plenty of money to send the gospel to all the heathen in the world.

I wonder which class of givers we belong to.

ROGER W. BABSON ADVISES PREACHERS

In one of his communications to the religious press, Mr. Roger W. Babson, the noted writer on national economic problems has the following things to say about the preacher in the essentials of his calling. It will be of interest as the judgment of a Christian layman who is concerned about the success of religious work.

"Ministers must realize that they have only one real job and that is to help people spiritually. If you are a minister with a declining congregation, you should know that you are failing in this main task. Your first step in correcting the situation should be to get right with God yourself and use your religion yourself. Leaders cannot be wobblers. Leaders must show by their own lives that they have faith, courage, and a goal. You can never expect to be a leader unless you KNOW where you are headed for and enthusiastically urge others to follow you.

"'How can I remedy my situation?' you ask. To laymen the answer is very simple. Consider these four suggestions:

"(1) Don't try to preach one or more sermons every week. Preach only when filled with fire and enthusiasm. Then give us 'both barrels.'

"(2) Remember that most of us laymen are in trouble. We have come to church hoping for help. Be sure we go away satisfied.

"(3) Have classes in prayer. If you wobble as to the power of prayer for guidance get out of the ministry If you believe in it, then boldly teach it.

"(4) Finally, take your work seriously. Don't be content to go through a formal service like an old Russian priest. Go and sell the gospel as a salesman goes out to sell insurance, automobiles, or vacuum cleaners.

"A basic difficulty today with the church is that most ministers have an 'inferiority complex.' Ministers should take a militant attitude—sure of something that religion can do for their people—and then insist that they actively proclaim it to every one on every occasion."—Wesleyan Methodist.

OBITUARY

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."—Revelation 14-13.

Elias H. Porter

Elias H. Porter, of Port Maitland, Nova Scotia, passed away on Oct. 10th at 7 a. m. at the home of his son, Melbourne L. Porter, of 5738 Whitsett Ave., North Hollywood. Calif.

He is survived by his son and two grand-children, Phyllis and Donald Porter. Mr. Porter was born on Feb. 1st, 1847, thus was in his 90th year.

For many years he was a Deacon in the Reformed Baptist Church of Port Maitland, Nova Scotia, but since coming to California about ten years ago, he has attended the "Assembly of God" Church in which he was greatly interested. Due to ill health he has been unable for nearly a year to attend regularly but it was always his greatest pleasure to attend Christian service.

Funeral services were held on Monday afternoon, Oct. 12th, in North Hollywood. The Rev. Clark, of the "Assembly of God" Church, read the service.

Several Port Maitland friends attended and three of the pallbearers, Lloyd Perry, Bernard Raymond and Walter Robbins, were all of Port Maitland.

Note.—We are very sorry indeed to lose another very highly esteemed brother in Christ, and good subscriber to the King's Highway. Our deceased brother had taken the Highway for many years. We just received his renewal a few days previous to his death. We extend our sincere sympathy to those who mourn his passing.—Editor.

Miss Ruth Churchill

The death occurred recently in New York of Miss Ruth Churchill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Churchill, of Lake Darling, at the age of 37 years. Miss Churchill had made her home in New York for some time, and the news of her passing came as a great shock to her many friends.

Miss Churchill is survived by, besides her parents, mentioned above, four sisters: Florence, Mrs. Eugene Harris, Short Beach, Yarmouth Co.; Gladys, Mrs. James Carter, North Conway, New Hampshire, Miss Myrtle in New Hampshire, and Miss Sadie, at home; also three brothers: Judson, Roderick and Ernest, all of Lake Darling. The remains accompanied by her two sisters, Mrs. Carter and Miss Myrtle, arrived in Yarmouth and were forwarded to Lake Darling, where the funeral took place from the home of her parents, and was conducted by Rev. I. D. Lyttle and Rev. Mr. Rogers of the United Baptist and Reformed Baptist churches, respectively. Interment was made in the cemetery at Lake Darling .-Yarmouth Advertiser.

"The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold; but the Lord trieth the Hearts."

"Faith and obedience are essentials to a good Christian character."