

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—

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RADIO MESSAGE BY
REV. W. EDMUND SMITH

From CKCW, Moncton, N. B., March 5th

You will find our text in the first Epistle of John, fifth chapter and third verse: For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not grievous.

In this declaration you will note that John puts the love of God on a most practical basis. He does not say this is the love of God that we greatly admire His commandments, or that we make an effort to keep His commandments, but this is the love of God that we KEEP His commandments and His commandments are not grievous.

Jesus had sounded the same practical note when He said: "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." And again: "Why call ye Me Lord and do not the things I command you?" And again, "Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord! Lord! shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven."

In John's day the ideal of love had been degraded by the heathen Roman world to a wild erotic passion by which womanhood was degraded and the stability and sanctity of the home made impossible.

We today are in grave danger of lapsing into heathen conditions and standards of morality. The salacious literature so abundant, the polluted films, the erotic crooning that comes over the air—all have a tendency to drag love down to the heathen levels.

But Jesus brought in a new and lofty conception of love, both towards our fellow man and towards God. He taught by Paul that love fills out to the full God's laws not only in the letter but in the spirit.

The ultimate thing to be realized by all forms and ceremonies of external nature and by the inward working of the Spirit of God upon our spiritual nature, is to produce love out of a pure heart, a good conscience and faith unfeigned.

The New Testament teaches that love is both an emotion and a principle. To teach rich and glowing experiences that do not ultimate in true moral and ethical standards of conduct is to ignore the transforming and enabling power of grace. The Kingdom of God is peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, but it is also righteousness outward and inward, in the Holy Ghost.

Think of a man brought before a judge and charged with a criminal offence. The convicting evidence is conclusive and the man pleads guilty. But he also pleads extenuating circumstances. He tells the judge that he has high admiration of the laws of the land and sees in them a noble ideal for directing moral and civil action. He also declares that he has made earnest efforts to keep the laws, but try as he may he feels within a disposition to violate them.

The judge would reply: "That inner disposition is what makes you a lawless man and an unworthy citizen. We have a place prepared for such as you."

How often we seem to think the law of God and the commandments of Jesus constitute an ideal to be admired, a standard to be arrived at but not to be realized! But John says: "This is the love of God, not that we admire His commandments, or try to keep His commandments, but that we keep His commandments and they are not grievous."

This last clause is a staggering declaration—"And they are not grievous." When we know that in the unrenowned, uncleansed heart there is an innate disposition to do the very thing God has forbidden.

There are those who tell us that if no laws were enacted or prohibitions announced, we would naturally do the right thing; that law creates lawlessness, for when we are forbidden to do a thing that is the very thing we want to do.

Now we know that a mirror does not create but reflects our peculiar facial expression. We look into the mirror and our features and complexion are reflected. At times some folks do not like what they see and so rub on something to improve the reflection.

We look into the law of God and it is a mirror that reveals our moral and spiritual defects. So many try to fix themselves up by external moralities and ethical culture to make a better reflection in relation to God's law.

But the Scriptural way is to let God come in by regenerating grace and sanctifying power, to cleanse our hearts, and to empower our wills.

God promised through Ezekiel: "I will sprinkle clean water upon you and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness and idols will I cleanse you. And a new heart will I give unto you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh; and will put My Spirit within you, and will cause you to walk in My statutes and keep My judgments to do them."

The psalmist cried: "I delight to do Thy will, oh my God, yea Thy law is within my heart." and again, "Thy statutes have become my song in the house of my pilgrimage."

Think of a person becoming so captivated by the law of God that he sets it to music, and sings it exultingly about his daily toil.

In Hebrews is the promise: "This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel saith the Lord. I will put my laws in their mind, and write them on their hearts."

This, beloved, portrays the true liberty wherewith Christ doth make his children free. The great Chalmers called it "The expulsive power of a new affection." Paul called it "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus." John called it: "Perfect love that casteth out fear."

A man in prison or under guard of a policeman is compelled to keep the civil law, but

it is grievous to him, for he feels the lawless spirit struggling within. A person under the slavish fear of Sinai may hold his evil inclinations in restraint but it is a grievous task, for he feels the lawless spirit struggling within. The better way is to submit to God and be born of His Spirit, yield ourselves to God and be sanctified by His grace. It is thus we find the law of God reveals the holiness of God's character and proves it to be the conservator of our highest good.

As the rails give direction to the train, but have no propelling power, so the law gives direction to our lives but grace gives the ennobling power. The psalmist cried: "I will run in the way of Thy commandments when Thou hast enlarged my heart."

Augustine was a wild sensuous youth with many strong desires to be good but enslaved by passions he could not conquer. His mother, Monica, a most godly woman, held onto God for her son, believing in the ultimate triumph of grace. Time and again the young man resolved on amendment of life but was speedily defeated by his foes. Finally he visited Milan and met St. Ambrose, whose joyous holy life made Augustine hungry for real heart victory. One morning at an early hour, while walking in the garden meditating on his own weakness and praying God for strength, Augustine heard the voice of God speaking to his heart in the words of Paul: "Not in rioting and drunkenness; not in chambering and wantonness; not in strife and envying, but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof." Immediately the young man felt a marvelous power come into his soul, cleansing his affections and energizing his will. He went forth strong to overcome his former besetments and to become one of the holiest men the world has ever known—St. Augustine the Saint and Theologian.

To the weakest and the humblest I can say, the same grace is for you if you are willing to seek and find it, for "the same Lord over all is rich unto all who call upon Him in truth." Amen!

DICTATORSHIP

The world's trend toward dictatorship, and hence to the dictator, is described by MacNeal, in 'Capper's Weekly':

"There are two kinds of dictatorships: Communism and Fascism. The only Communist dictatorship is Soviet Russia with a population of approximately 168,000,000. But there are a number of Fascist dictatorships. Germany with a population of 66,000,000, Italy with 42,000,000, Poland 32,000,000, Turkey 14,000,000, Yugoslavia 14,000,000, Hungary 8,700,000, Austria 6,750,000 and Estonia 1,150,000, a total of 184,600,000 population for the Fascist countries. Apparently Fascism is growing much faster than Communism. Even in Russia the Soviet government is swinging steadily in the direction of Fascism."

Mrs. Hartshorn Mullen,
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