

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

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SPECIAL NOTICE

All correspondence for The Highway should reach us before the 12th and 25th of each month.

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EDITORIAL

RADIO TALK BY THE EDITOR OVER CKCW, MONCTON

My subject is the "Spirit's Message to the Churches."

You will find our text in the Book of Revelation, the second chapter, where it is repeated several times. The words are: "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." These are words of great authority because they are the words of our risen and glorified Lord himself, to his servant John who at this time was imprisoned on the isle called Patmos for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. In view of the fact that he has repeated these words so many times we are impressed with their importance. He wants us to be sure to hear and heed them. The church is God's line of communication to a lost world, hence if the line is kept intact God will be sure to get His message across. Jesus called His followers the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

God's message is always important to the churches. That is why the great apostle has admonished preachers to "preach the word." What people say may not always be so very important, for as you all know some of us do a great deal of talking and say very little at times, but those who are inspired by the Holy Spirit like the writer of our text can say a great deal in a few words. Well let us hear just a few things that the Spirit saith unto the churches which might be a timely message for us. First I would call your attention to the words of commendation and encouragement which he speaks. He said, "I know thy works and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars, and hast borne and hast patience and for my name's sake hast laboured and hast not fainted." Notice friends the Spirit found all the good things he could in the churches and acknowledged them. It is not always so with people, sometimes they look for all the faults and weaknesses in churches, and talk of them, and magnify them and if they cannot find enough evil to suit them they sometimes manufacture some evil reports and talk of them. Without a doubt the Church of Jesus Christ with all her faults is the greatest, most potent organization for the good of all mankind in this world. It is the best of all societies in existence. Yet the Spirit found some fault with it. After pointing out all the good he could find he said, "Nevertheless, thou hast left thy first love." The fault that the Spirit found with all seven churches seemed to consist of two

things, namely, a waning love and a loss of vision which resulted in a compromise on their part with worldliness. He said to the Laodicean church: "Because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot I will spue thee out of my mouth." They had lost their vision and the sense of their own backslidden condition and need.

They said we are rich and increased in goods and have need of nothing, but the Spirit said, "Thou knowest not that thou art miserable, wretched, poor, blind and naked. Jesus also said that in the last days or previous to his return that same condition would obtain in religious circles. He said because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. The Spirit not only pointed out their faults, but like a skilful physician, He prescribed the remedy for their trouble.

Note the first thing they must do was "repent." Some one has said that a backslidden church has never been known to confess to its own backslidden condition, but when the members lose their fervor, zeal, vision, and power, they just add some more ceremony and social works, and religious machinery as substitutes for fervent love to God and man out of a pure heart which God requires. The advice that the Spirit gave was "Remember from whence thou art fallen and repent and do thy first work." He also admonished them to buy of him gold tried in the fire that thou mayest be rich. Gold tried in the fire represents a genuine, living, active faith of the heart, for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness. He also said "Buy white raiment (which means true genuine holiness), that thou mayest be clothed (with the divine image and nature), and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve that thou mayest see", which means spiritual vision which they had lost. A discernment of spiritual things. And finally he said, "In order to receive all this blessing let the Spirit come into your heart and he will accomplish this in you. Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man will hear my voice and open the door I will come in, and sup with him, and he with me. He is not an intruder but if any man will open the door of his heart, by repentance, faith, a complete consecration of himself to God, the Holy Spirit will come in, cleanse and make his abode with the obedient child of God. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

PERFECTION

C. T. Matthews

God has designed that every believing child of his own possession should "leave the principles of the doctrine of Christ and go on unto perfection." A way has been provided through the atonement whereby every saved person may have their heart made perfect. All through the Christian centuries and even in the Patriarchal and Prophetic dispensations God required His servants to serve Him with a perfect heart.

It is written of Noah in Genesis that "Noah was a just man, and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God." Noah indulged in some actions that would not be permissible, and allowable under the dispensation of the Holy Spirit; yet he was perfect in his generation. He hearkened unto the commands of Jehovah, and walked in all the light that he possessed.

We also discover that "When Abram was ninety and nine years old the Lord appeared to him, and said unto him, "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect."

Likewise Abraham made several mishaps that would not be without blame in the Gospel dispensation of Grace; yet he "believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness." He was not instructed and commanded to walk before even the chosen of Israel, but before God himself.

Many other Old Testament characters such as Asa, Job, Hezekiah, and David could be mentioned who served him with a perfect heart in their generation and the whole plan and scheme of Christian Perfection is included in David's admonition to Solomon. "And thou Solomon, my Son, know thou the God of thy Father and serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind, for the Lord searcheth all hearts and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts; if thou seek Him He will be found of thee; but if thou forsake Him, He will cast thee off forever."

Are we not in this dispensation to serve God with a perfect heart and with a willing mind? God's will for us is a perfect heart. Not a perfect mind endowed with absolute knowledge, but "A heart in every thought renewed—a copy Lord of thine."

Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect." As Christ is perfect in his Heavenly Atmosphere, so the perfected saint can live with an eye single to the glory of God in this "wicked and adulterous generation." Jesus would not command his followers to obtain an experience that could not be attained.

It was the purpose of Paul to come to Thessalonica that he "might perfect that which was lacking in their faith." Ingredients of doubt, one of the fruits of carnality, was still lurking within their hearts. They needed to have a perfect faith in a perfect Saviour to give them a perfect heart cleansed from all sin. All believers need to have their faith made perfect through the efficacy of the blood.

Then again, John declares, "Herein is our love made perfect that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world." Thus we see that we can also possess a perfect love in this world of envy and strife. The standard for the New Testament Christian is found in the 13th Chapter of 1st Corinthians, which every Christian made perfect in love can abound in more and more. Let us abound in love one toward another, and thus prove to the world what a dear Saviour we have found. The proof of our Perfection will be manifest by our love toward the Brethren.

Well, says the Hymn writer,

Whate'er offends thy glorious eyes,

Far from our hearts remove;

As dust before the whirlwind flies,

Disperse it by thy love.

Then let us all thy fullness know

From every sin set free

Saved to the utmost, saved below,

And perfected in thee.

—Christian Witness

FROM MY READING

"To find mercy a man must know and feel himself to be a sinner; and in order to be cleansed, a man must know and feel his depravity, acknowledge and deplore it before God, in order to be fully sanctified. Few are pardoned because most men do not feel and confess their sins; and few are sanctified or cleansed from all sin because many Christians do not feel and confess their own sore and the plague of their hearts."—Adam Clarke—Church Herald.