

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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IF ANY MAN SIN

By Rev. R. H. Hamilton

Why do you not put that man out of the church?" asked a critical little woman of us one day, when we were discussing the case of a poor fellow who had fallen from grace. How often we have met the same spirit down the years. It is true that sin is not to be winked at, nor should the standard of the church be lowered to make it the communion of sinners. The church stands for holiness and purity, and when its adherents cease to walk according to the spirit of Christ that church becomes a mere social aggregation, from which the glory has departed. However, we believe this very question is one which requires some real consideration. We have met many who are inclined to deal severely and "radically" with some who should have a little different consideration. Some pastors and ministers whom we have known are more successful holding "back-door" revivals than they are holding "front-door" revivals. They are more proficient with the law than they are with the gospel.

The apostle gives us a wonderful pattern for dealing with delinquents, in Galatians 6. He says, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual RESTORE such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." We believe the great work of the church is to save men, to win them to divine fellowship. How terrible it is to think of any precious soul being lost. Yet many can talk glibly about putting this one or that one out of the church and can talk about hell without very much feeling. These are not the kind of folk who are found pleading with the erring ones, like Paul, with tears, nor spending much time in prayer for the recovery of the wanderers. We believe many earnest ministers who have labored and wept and sacrificed to win souls for Christ have had their hearts crushed when some succeeding pastor, who knows nothing of the tears and labor expended to win some very indifferent sinners to Christ, has "purged" the flock severely.

We believe that sin should be repented of. Often confession is necessary. We doubt if one gets far, however, demanding or compelling action. We doubt if we are equipped with authority to decide if the repentance is pleasing to God or not. Some of these things are matters between the soul and his God. Our great concern should be the return of the wanderer. The Spirit of Christ is manifested, not in a critical spirit, but in a heart of love and a tone of compassion. God has had to manifest a great deal of mercy towards us all; yea, it is well for us that we have a Mediator. Most people, backsliders included, will respond to the appeal of one who really loves them.

The backslider needs a great deal of consideration. He has sinned. He has met with defeat. If there is one who falls into discouragement it is the one who has been defeated. He feels unworthy and ashamed. The struggle seems too much to face again. His weakness is ever

before him. He surely does not need to have someone "rub it in." He needs sympathy. He does not want compromise. He does not want a cheap way back, but he needs help. "Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong. Fear not. Behold your God * * * will come and save you."

"Well, but are there not some cases where the erring one will not be restored?" you may ask. No doubt there are, but our duty toward that one is never complete until every avenue which love can direct has been followed. Prove to the erring one that you are not hasty to apply the law, yea, it grieves you to have finally to sever the relation with the church. Leave the impression that the return will be prayerfully awaited. After bearing with him for a season, if then he repent not, we must act. But having acted, remember he is a soul which will live throughout a long eternity and he should continually be a subject of our prayers.

To the erring one we would say that "Christ came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." He has made a special provision for the erring one. "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." He has said, "I will heal your backsliding, I will love you freely." Dear one who has faced defeat, do not go farther in sin. "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your heart." "Return unto me, and I will return unto you," saith the Lord.—Free Methodist.

VENGEANCE BELONGS TO GOD

Walter E. Isenhour

There is a condition which exists in the natural, depraved, unregenerated, unpurified heart that wants to take vengeance for injuries and for wrongs received. This shows the depravity of human nature. It is inbred and inborn. Nothing but the pardoning grace and sanctifying power of God can take it out. You can never educate it out of the heart. It is there to stay until removed by the Holy Ghost. This is done by an absolute surrender to God.

It is not for man to take vengeance upon his fellow man. This belongs to God. Though one may indeed be outraged by another, he may be abused, injured, mistreated, misjudged, hurt physically, morally and spiritually; though he may be robbed of his virtue and character, which is indeed a very great evil; though he may even be slain, it is not for him to take vengeance. We are to return good for evil. We are to pray for those who spitefully use us and persecute us. If our enemy hungers, we are to give him food; if he thirsts we are to give him drink. This is God's plan concerning our lives.

Those who rise up to take vengeance go outside and beyond the plan and will of God to do so. "Vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord." (Rom. 12:19). This is in the New Testament. In the Old Testament we read: "To me belongeth vengeance, and recompense." (Deut. 32:35). God will settle everything just right. We don't know how,—therefore we should

leave it in His hands rather than rise up and fight, kill and slay. When a man takes vengeance on his fellow man it is always in the wrong spirit. He may be too severe. God does all things right. We are not to take into our own hands what belongs in the hands of God. Our duty is to obey God, and let Him fight our battles for us, take charge of and reward our enemies.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE

By Rev. W. G. Worboys

"Ye cannot serve God and mammon," said our Lord in His memorable sermon. Before Him, with open ears to catch the content of His doctrine, stood a vast multitude. The devotees of self were doubtless present—those who were most consecrated to their personal affairs, though stressing the technique of the ceremonial law. Other worldly wisecracks listened to this fundamental statement.

How human nature is tricked by sin! How many of this age are SEEMINGLY religious! How many are serving tables, and yet patronizing the Lord's table! The attempt to carry water on both shoulders without spilling either bucket; or, taking the world in one hand and God in the other, is false psychology. Man is constituted to make only one supreme choice at one time. He can not make two supreme choices at once. To profess to love God, and at the same time be joined in heart to sinful pleasures, is only another way of saying that the person loves the world—and is a WORLDING. Double devotion is not God's plan. Our Lord does not say that it is sinful to serve God and mammon. He plainly says, "Ye cannot." It is impossible!

—Free Methodist.

DEGENERATIVE FORCES

By Rev. A. J. McKinney

The upward growth of vegetation has to overcome the law of gravitation, as also insect pests, adverse atmospheric changes, and drouth—that liquifying element which makes the nutrifying elements of the soil available for growth. The farmer has many adverse and opposing conditions which must be overcome to arrive at success.

Likewise are found in the vineyard of the spiritual many opposing, detrimental and destructive elements and hindrances. A sanctified field would be one devoid of weeds. There is no provision in the present dispensation for this. But in the present remedial epoch, elimination of carnal roots is abundantly provided for. But parabolic pests and adverse atmospheric conditions persist; outward enemies still live.

And in the field of man-soul it is possible for the enemy to sow tares. If we entertain his visitings he surely will impregnate the cleanest fields. Be watchful, therefore, and with wakeful vigilance guard the portal. "And what I say unto you, I say unto all—WATCH."

—Free Methodist.