

# 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—Isa. 35-

VOL. XXXVII.

MONCTON, N. B., JULY 15, 1938

NO 50

### DANGER SIGNALS OF OUR TIMES

Rev. Joseph H. Smith

We do not hesitate to identify the times in which we are living as the "latter days," the "last times," as spoken of in Scripture with reference to the period of era preceding the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ. For however long it may be to us (with our earthly calendars and our human limitations in time calculations), to Him with whom "a thousand years are as one day," and with whom the destinies of billions of souls and of whole nations are involved in the event of that "great and notable day of the Lord," it seems divinely wise and to us eminently fitting that there should be given us some twilight features of the world's pending nightfall; and some added cautions for our vigilant regard in this as a closing period of gospel opportunity and mankind's probation.

Nor are we disappointed in these words of warning and of exhortation, addressed to Christians, by the apostles all and by Christ Himself, apprising us of dangers—if not new in kind, greatly augmented in force and diversified in avenues and means of approach. So much that the whole period is designated as perilous times. And this with reference to perils of preachers and perils of Christian people as well.

For instance, this very fact of the seeming long detention of our Lord, and "all things continuing as they were from the creation of the world," is not only made occasion for the "scoffers" to sneer and "walk after their own lusts," but once faithful servants of the Lord (as the representative one pictured in Matthew 24:46-51) may be imbibing in their hearts, the modernistic heresy as to the Lord's not coming until earth has developed into a paradise, the age into a millennium, and we ourselves into a super-mankind, with the resulting effects of a life of indulgence for themselves and of brutal mistreatment of those who contend for the "faith of the fathers"—these have been suddenly overtaken by the coming of Christ and are severed from all relationship with the faithful and with Himself, and assigned a place with the hypocrites forever.

A second source of our peril—of which too certain danger posts have been set up with their red lights of warning—is of a nature exactly opposite to that just noted. There are the dangers of False Christs, and False Christianities, either averring that Christ has already come—that He is in "the desert" or some "secret place"—or else announcing, as if with authority divine, the exact time when He shall soon and certainly appear. The number and the zeal of those who would make merchandise of us in this way with their various tabernacles, their radio broadcasting their insinuating literature and their admittance into some of our pulpits and many of our churches by active, ardent individual advocates of the same. And this, too, with an arraign-

ment as apostates of all who do not accept their views, is one of the great snares set by the enemy for our fall in these times. And some idea of the intensified activity of Satan himself in exploiting these dangers for our footprints in these twilight hours, may be seen by the "signs and wonders" which some of the misleaders are enabled to perform. Certain it is that the devil—from the time of Moses and Pharaoh—has succeeded as an apt counterfeiter of gifts and works of the Spirit of God. And while the heresy of Modernism about the Lord's not coming—now if at all—has much officialism and educationalism to back it, the wild fanaticism and shallow and twisted teaching of certain scriptures as to the immedinate and spectacular appearing of the Lord and the seeming inspiration which some of the false teachers do have at times, the supposed victory by wondrous healings and other phenomena in satanic imitation of the true gifts of the Spirit.

Consequently, it behooves us to have our mind's eye ever alert for the "deceitful" working of the arch deceiver in many of the things which have decidedly religious appearance and claims.

A third peril noted is that of the hankering for some new thing in pulpit utterance and in the church or on the air and for performance; with a sort of weariness and distaste for the Old, Old, Old Story. Thus is plainly stated: "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts they shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears." (2 Tim. 4:3).

And it is added: "They shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables." Thus churches that were built by self-sacrifice and devotion are turned into lecture forums, banqueting halls, play rooms and even, in some instances, dancing galleries. And the bigness and popularity of some churches are no more evidence of religious interest than are the crowds at circuses or movie shows or theaters. But the tendency to "follow the crowd" is so great in human nature that we need to never lose sight of the Saviour's sign and words of "The Narrow Way," and the "Few" there be that go in thereat. Christ is easy to lose and hard to find in a crowd.

Lastly, we should notice the danger of spiritual inertia or atrophy to ourselves from the influence of a lukewarm and non-evangelistic church. The Lord has spoken these words, "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." (Matt. 24:12). And He avers of Laodicean church conditions that, though they boasted of their riches and increase, yet they were wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. (Rev. 3:17)

The slacking of the true Missionary spirit and enterprise, and the closing of many church doors to revivals, and the inaptness and the unpreparedness of many preachers for direct soul-saving work, have turned churches from hot houses to air-conditioned hospitals, that are infected with a sort of infantile paralysis

that has already atrophied and crippled many folks.—God's Revivalist.

### SUPPOSE

Suppose that next year some of the laborers on the better circuits should find themselves on the poorer ones. Would they have any regrets that they had not been more thoughtful of their predecessor?

Mr. Layman, suppose your brother or sister should be that pastor; would you feel concerned as to how he could make ends meet?

Suppose the church in your community should be closed because a pastor could not eke out a living on the salary received.

Suppose your boy or girl should lose their soul, because your church light house were closed. Wouldn't it be sad?

Suppose every pastor heeded the call of the conference to loyally bring this matter before their congregations.

Suppose every member gave according to his ability to this cause.

Suppose those whom God has blessed with talents of gold, and talents of silver, remembered the Pastor's Aid Board in their wills.

Suppose that some good folks burned up less gas and oil for unnecessary driving, and offered the money so saved as a sacrifice unto the Lord.

Suppose that when the accumulated funds arrived at conference there was more than enough to bring every salary up to the minimum, at least.

Suppose the half discouraged pastors took heart and said, "After all, somebody does care."

Suppose the pastors showed their encouragement by more diligent study and prayer: and consequently better preaching, by diligently attending to pastoral visiting, by improving the church and parsonage property, by laboring more tactfully and earnestly with the young folks, and children, and suppose next year the inspiration had so spread that God rewarded the renewed efforts with such a revival, spiritual and financial as the times demand.

Wouldn't everybody be glad?

—Harriet Loveless in Free Methodist Herald.

### BACK TO GOD AND THE BIBLE

"I do not see," said Calvin Coolidge, "any method of improving our social and economic relations except through the teachings of religion. In fact it is my belief that we have gone as far as we can in progress and reform until we have a more general acceptance of the truths of the Bible. If these are permitted to slip away from us the progress we have already accomplished will vanish with them.—Sel.

A man may be wrecked as is a ship. Conscience is an anchor. Terrible it is but true, that, like the anchor, conscience may be carried away.—Victor Hugo.

Mrs. Harshorn Mullen,  
Jan 39