

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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EDITORIAL

God's attitude toward idolatrous worship, and prayerlessness in the church.

Read Ezekiel 9. He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice saying, cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. And behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in and stood beside the brasen altar.

And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; and the Lord said unto him: Go through the midst of the city; through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others he said in mine hearing: Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began, etc. And it was done as God commanded. We have quoted several verses of scripture that our readers might understand our subjects, suggested in the caption of this article. God's ancient people Israel had backslidden in heart: but were still holding to a form of worship in the temple where God used to meet with them in the days when they worshipped Him in truth: But the word says, "the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub. In other words the Glory had departed, like it has gone from hundreds of professing Christians throughout our land, and I fear that many of them are Reformed Baptists.

If you read carefully chapters 7, 8 and 9 of Ezekiel's vision, and use your imagination a little, you might think that the prophet was writing of conditions as they exist in the world, and religious circles today, or of modern church life. Notice, he says, violence is risen up, for the land is full of bloody crimes, mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumor upon rumor, and the law shall perish. The king shall mourn, and the princes shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled. Does that

not sound like late news? Does it not make us think of what we read in our daily papers? War, bloodshed, crimes of various kinds, filling our land with disregard for law, which is poorly enforced, or perishing. While our king mourns, and our so-called statesmen are powerless to do something, and call for united effort and reconsecration on the part of the people to help fight and win the war?

But let us note what brought this distressing condition on the land in Ezekiel's day: Namely, godlessness on the part of the nation. They said: "The Lord hath forsaken the earth; the Lord seeth us not." In other words we cannot depend upon God, or expect Him to fight our battles for us. They disregarded Him in their national conferences, and leagues of nations. They disregarded His laws, gave themselves up to money making and pleasure seeking, manufactured and drank strong drink, violated God's holy Sabbath, debauched the young manhood and womanhood of the land, by making drunkards of them. See also Amos 6.

Also look at their religious life: They substituted a mere form of worship, or became idolatrous in their religious exercises. See chapter 8, verse 16: The elders, leaders in religion turned their backs on the temple, the church and worshipped the sun; this makes us think of many leaders in the churches today who turn their backs on God, and His cause in summer when the sun shines warm, and say, we must have our Sundays for pleasure seeking. We can go to the shore, or beaches and enjoy ourselves, and worship the god of nature. They are: Nature, or sun-worshippers.

Again, the prophet saw many of them worshipping images, and pictures of all manner of creeping things and abominable beasts, portrayed on the walls of the house round about. Verse 10. Is that not about what multiplied thousands of worshippers are doing today? Going to their great church edifices and bowing down to images, or idols at stated times and seasons, and all the time living in all manner of sin. And they are told by their leaders that such forms of worship are acceptable to their church and God. God has said: Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything, in heaven or earth and thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them. Exo. 22.

Note also, they had gone into gross sin. not only the men but the women also. The prophet saw them sitting weeping for Tammuz. Some Bible commentators tell us that this was an act of idolatrous worship in which young women who, professing to be interested in the welfare of their country, gave themselves up to uncleanness, sacrificed their virtue, and became prostitutes. A prominent man in the law profession, in one of our cities, told this writer just recently that hundreds of young women will soon be mothers in his city who have no husbands. He said they were too free in trying to entertain the soldier boys who are in training there. Here comes a report from another city that they are talking of closing the High school because of the same trouble among the girls there. Many of them no doubt are setting weeping for Tammuz (lost virtue). May God have mercy on our dear young people, and in some way protect these girls, whose fool mothers have not sense enough to look after them.

Now note: God's attitude toward His peo-

ple in Ezekiel's day. His righteous wrath waxed hot against those abominable law breakers. He called for justice, and awful judgments fell upon them. And because so few even among the worshippers seemed to care, so few manifested any concern: That God called for the man of mercy, clothed with linen with a writer's inkhorn by his side to put a mark on the forehead of those who sighed and cried for the sins of the people. Those who really carried a burden of soul, and really prayed, were all that his mercy spared. All the residue, workers of iniquity, sinners, backsliders, professors of religion, idol worshippers, with all those burdenless, prayerless, tearless, easy going lukewarm, half hearted religious professors, met the same fate. They fell under the slaughter weapons of God's judgments. Read for yourself Ezekiel 9: Behold God's attitude toward impenitent sinners and careless professors, when mercy fails to win them, and justice and judgment rise up to do their work. Note also the responsibility resting upon the churches and professors of religion. Justice said, to the men with the slaughter weapons who were sent out to execute the wrath of God: "Begin at my sanctuary."—the church. Judgment begins at the house of God. Reader, where do you classify. Are you a sinner, a backslider, or a lukewarm burdenless professor? If you belong to any of these classes, beware, repent, call on God for mercy. Happy are ye, if you are among those whose sins have been forgiven, whose heart is clean through faith in the Precious Blood, and who sigh and cry over the sins of others.

OBITUARY

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."—

Mrs. Vernon H. Beckwith

On September 17th at Westmoreland, N.H., one of our sisters passed away in the person of Mrs. Vernon H. Beckwith. She leaves to mourn her loss her sorrowing husband, and four sons, Harold, Luwellyn and Glenn, of Keene, N.H., and Ivan, of Wollaston, Mass. Also four grandchildren, two sisters, Mrs. Claude McGrath, of Knoxville, Mrs. Harry C. Wheeler, Centreville; two brothers, Norval Wolverton, Newtown, Conn., and Miles Wolverton, Knoxville, her parents and another sister having predeceased her a number of years ago.

When health permitted, our departed sister was present each year at Beulah Camp Meeting, a place that she held most dear.

Funeral services were held at Keene, N. H., Friday, Sept. 19th.

Berton Chapman

The death of Berton C., son of Mr. and Mrs. George Chapman, of Glenvale, N.B., occurred at the Moncton Hospital, Sept. 20th. The boy was but twenty months of age and his passing brought great sorrow to the loved ones. Funeral service was in charge of Rev. Gordon Becket.

The family and relatives bereaved wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Roy Alward, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ogilvie, the clergyman who officiated at the funeral, and all the sympathetic friends who shared their burden of sorrow.

God bless these who mourn.

Florence McLaughlin

After a lingering illness of many months, Florence, wife of Guy McLaughlin, of Hartland, passed away early Friday morning, Aug. 29th, at the age of 43. The funeral took place on Sunday following, and was largely attend-