

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

VOL. XXXVIII.

MONCTON, N. B., DECEMBER 31st, 1941

No. 64

A Happy New Year to All

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION AND ETERNAL SECURITY

Man is a moral being, which means that he can know right from wrong and choose the one or the other. He is a sinner by "nature" and by practice. He may choose to remain so, refusing all the provisions of the atonement and the invitations of the gospel. Or he may repent, believe on the Christ, and submit to the claims of God upon his soul. If he does this he is transformed and becomes a Christian. The experience which comes to him is known by several terms, all of which are descriptive and all of which are defective and inaccurate inasmuch as they portray a spiritual fact with physical, mental or legal terms. Such are regeneration, the new birth, adoption, conversion, etc., etc.

As noted, the man has been a moral being before this great change. It is his right choice of gospel provisions which has made possible the wondrous change in character, relationship and prospect. But note, he remains a moral being after he has made this choice also. As the days go by he may choose in harmony with the great and blessed choice which has made it possible for him to become a new creature. If he does so choose he remains a "new creature" or a Christian. If he chooses against God after he has become a Christian he becomes a rebel and a backslider.

There is a theory that the reason the man could enter into the divine family was because he is "elected"—that is, because some special provision was made for him which was not made for everyone. A half dozen passages of Scripture are introduced to support this idea. One trouble with this teaching is that for every passage which could be introduced which is supposed to prove that God has foreordained some better thing in eternity for some than for others, twenty passages can be adduced to prove that so far as the future life is concerned God's good choice and provision is for everyone. The teaching of the body of Scripture is with the blessed whosoever passages. If there is any passage which seems to teach that God unconditionally and from eternity planned to do better for some than for others, then those passages must be interpreted by and brought under the teaching of the body of Scripture (a very good principle to remember in an attempt to interpret any scriptural passage).

The theory of unconditional election makes necessary the idea that if one is born into the divine family he is in forever. We are told that if one is born into any family he remains in that family no matter what he does. How absurd! How inadequate is any physical or legal fact to show the whole spiritual truth!

Simply stated, one has gone into the divine family by his choice with God. If he later chooses against God he goes out. He is no longer in divine favor and is a lost man unless, perchance, he repents of his backsliding and comes back into the divine relationship, which thing he may or may not do.

Someone is afraid that this makes God changeable, whereas the Scripture represents Him as immutable. Now some will say, we hold that if James Smith and Mary Jones are converted and thus show that they are elected, then they remain children of God no matter how far they backslide and become like the devil. Not only so, but according to this teaching these must be finally saved. Let us admit that the teaching of conditional election does make God changeable so far as John Smith and Mary Jones are concerned, changing as these change, but it makes Him unchangeable in His attitude toward moral quality, toward rebels, and toward saints.

Knowing what we do of the character of God, it would seem just a little more logical to believe that He is eternally fixed as a Holy Being, and therefore in His attitude toward right and wrong.

If we accept and believe such we find in Him one we can admire in His impartiality because He has given an open door for all to be saved, and also we find reason for the great and sweeping and universal invitations of the Word.

As to John Smith and Mary Jones: The fact that they were converted does not prove they belong to some special class of favored individuals but rather proves that they accepted the blessed universal provision. In their conversion God has turned away His wrath and looks upon them with pleasure. If they turn from God they will be lost unless they repent and come back. This they may do if they do it in time. Some who have been saved backslide and do come back to the fold again. Some are forever lost. Do not fool yourself. Just take the way. And keep it.—The Free Methodist.

Fame is only one of the sauces of life; it is not the good of the spirit at all.—A. C. Benson.

Freedom! which in no other land could thrive—
Freedom! an English subject's sole prerogative.
—John Dryden



LITTLE AND GREAT

A traveller, through a dusty road,
Strewed acorns on the lea;
And one took root and sprouted up,
And grew into a tree.
Love sought its shade at evening time
To breathe its early vows;
And Age was pleased, in heat of noon
To bask beneath its boughs.
The doremouse loved its dangling twigs
The birds sweet music bore;
It stood a glory in its place,
A blessing evermore.

A nameless man, amid a crowd
That thronged the daily mart
Let fall a word of hope and love
Unstudied, from the heart.
A whisper on the tumult thrown,
A transitory breath,
It raised a brother from the dust,
It saved a soul from death.
O germ, O fount, O word of love
O thought at random cast
Ye were but little at the first
But mighty at the last. —Sel.

COMPROMISE THAT DECEIVES NO ONE

At one of the many churches that employ the gambling game "Bingo" to rake in the shekels, a lady's purse was found during the course of the game. The priest (and remember that not all the Roman churches and priests approve the use of "Bingo") announced the discovery and specified that the owner must identify it. A young lady stepped out and was asked to state what was within the purse. She named a number of articles and the priest asked, "And what else?" Rather shamefacedly she added, "A package of cigarettes." The priest handed her the bag, and, as she started away, stopped her to say, "I doubt whether the Virgin Mary ever smoked cigarettes." With a toss of her head the maiden responded, "And I doubt whether the Lord Jesus Christ ever played 'Bingo.'" All of which goes to show that the churches that stoop to worldly methods of raking in the cash are not deceiving even the people who participate. Dancing, card parties, night clubs are not made a whit more decent by being dragged into the church. The world knows that these devices are a confession of failure—of spiritual poverty. The only one deceived is the preacher or the church leader who sponsors the thing.—Selected.

Prayer is the hospitality of the soul entertaining the Most High.—Harry Emerson Fosdick.

"My presence shall go with thee."—Ex. 33:14.