

# THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —  
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

Published Semi-Monthly at Moncton, N. B.  
by a Committee of the Alliance

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## SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

Per year, in advance	\$1.50
Ministers, per year	1.00
Four months' trial subscription	.40
Sample Copy	Free
United States Subscribers	1.50
Ministers, U. S. A.	1.25

## SPECIAL NOTICE

All correspondence for The Highway should reach us before the 12th and 25th of each month.  
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MONCTON, N. B., JULY 31ST, 1941

## EDITORIAL

### JESUS TEACHES TWO WORKS OF GRACE IN THE PARABLES

"Again the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man seeking goodly pearls: Who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

In nearly all our Lord's parables he seems to be trying to teach some phase, one or more, of spiritual truth. The Kingdom of Heaven that He speaks of so often, is the gospel dispensation, the salvation which Jesus made possible to all men by His sacrificial death: the blessings of salvation, which the apostle calls righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

In the foregoing parable of the pearl of great price, He seems to be trying to set forth, or to impress us with the value of salvation, and how to obtain it. The fact that He does not say how much the pearl was worth, but that it was one of great price, suggests to us that the salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ is so valuable that its value cannot be reckoned in dollars and cents, or silver and gold. Peter says ye are not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold, but by the Precious Blood of Christ.

Pearls evidently used to be very valuable; not the Woolworth kind however, but real, genuine pearls. It is said that Cleopatra the ancient Egyptian princess had one worth \$375,000.00, and to show her love for Mark Anthony she dissolved it in vinegar and drank it to his health.

Notice, too, this merchant man was seeking goodly pearls, he was not seeking rags or bottles, or open to buy scrap iron or all kinds of old junk. He was seeking the best, likewise a man who seeks salvation seeks the most valuable treasure that man can possess, and when he finds pardon for his sin, peace for his guilty, troubled, sin sick soul, he knows something of the value of salvation, he knows that it is "of great price."

Now read the parable again, and you will see Jesus teaching a second work of grace.

"When he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all he had and bought it."

Notice he does not really possess the costly pearl until he sells all that he has, notwithstanding he has found it and is satisfied with its value, and that it is a good investment. No business man will invest all that he has in any proposition, or business venture until he is satisfied that the investment is safe, and is also a paying one. Neither will any man make an entire consecration of himself, and his all to Jesus until he first has found Him, knows and loves Him, and wants to know Him better.

It was the brethren (not sinners) whom the

Apostle Paul beseeches to present their bodies a living sacrifice wholly acceptable unto God.—Rom. 12:1. Therefore a man must be converted before he can, or will consecrate himself to God which makes consecration come after conversion. A sinner may and must surrender to God, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ in order to find pardon, and peace with God. A Christian must consecrate all to God in order to obtain all the fullness of God, the baptism with the Holy Spirit, which our Lord called the "Promise of the Father" and admonished His disciples to tarry at Jerusalem to receive notice further that the merchant man in the parable, sold all that he had, or it took all that he was worth (and he does not say how much that was) to purchase the costly pearl. Is not our Lord teaching that there is a blessing of inestimable worth awaiting Christians who will sell all, present their all, or consecrate all to Jesus? Abraham gave his only son, Isaac, the best he had. Amanda Smith said, that she gave her wash tub and board, that was her all. Dr. E. Stanley Jones said when he saw his need of a deeper work of grace, he gave God his all and God gave him His best and satisfied his heart hunger.

## A LOOK AHEAD

F. Kendall, Alida, Sask.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth." Rev. 21:1.

"Nevertheless, we according to His promise, look for a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:13.

The Apostle John, who had the vision of the Revelation, was at the time on exile on the lonely Isle of Patmos and calls himself a brother and companion in tribulation with those to whom he was writing. It is well known that the book of the Revelation has been read most when the church of Christ was undergoing persecution and affliction.

During the great World War there were certain ones at the head of state, who believed they were fighting for a just and righteous cause, and that finally the side of right would conquer. So in the present titanic struggle, how important it is that our leaders keep up the heart and spirit of our Empire! How wonderfully well this is being done, especially in the case of Britain, where, though property is being blown to bits, food rationed, and a heavy toll of life taken, yet the public sentiment is "chins up: we can take it." And why? They have faith in what they believe to be a righteous cause. They are a new world order arising out of this chaos. May God speed the day when their hopes will be realized.

The church of the living God is in a great struggle with satan and his hosts. We read in history of "The Hundred Years War," but this struggle with the hosts of darkness has been going on 6000 years, and as we view the battlefield today, some are inclined to say, "The world gets worse and worse," while others contend "it gets better and better."

To the word and to the testimony, what says the great Captain of our salvation, who can view the whole battle front at once and sees the end from the beginning? We read, "Say not thou, what is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this." We read in Dan. 2:44, "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed \* \* \* and it shall stand forever." And Dan. 2:34, 35, "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without

hands" \* \* \* \* became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. Again, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till the whole was leavened." These and kindred scriptures, imply a general view of the battle field as the Captain of our salvation, standing on the vantage ground of mount Zion sees it.

On the other hand, it is written, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived," and "In the last days perilous times shall come, for men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boast-ers, proud, blasphemous, disobedient to parents, proud, blasphemous, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy." Also, "When the son of man cometh shall He find faith in the earth?" And again, "For as in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the son of man, they did eat, they drank, they married wives, and were given in marriage," etc. Likewise also as in the days of Lot: "They did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded."

How can we reconcile these two classes of scripture? We believe these latter verses of scripture pertain to those who were once enlightened, and have "turned away from the holy commandment delivered to them" and "the last state is worse than the first." "If the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness?" The Jewish people, at the very time of Paul and Peter's writings were getting "worse and worse." Capernaum, which had been exalted to heaven, was being brought down to hell. Christ said to Jerusalem, "Your house is left unto you desolate." But at the same time, the leaven of truth was spreading in the Gentile world.

In the space of three hundred and fifty years, idolatry was banished from the Roman Empire, and is fast vanishing from the world. The doing away of slavery from nearly all countries, is no mean tribute to the influence of Christianity. One hundred and fifty years ago Christianity had little influence outside of Europe and America; now it has a mighty hold on Asia, Africa and the Isles of the sea. When Wm. Carey went to India, in 1793, thirty thousand widows, on an average, were burned alive annually on the funeral pyre of their dead husbands, while thousands of children were thrown every year into the Ganges river and drowned, as a sacrifice to the river God. These and various other heathen superstitions have been banished before the light of Christian truth.

China, with nearly a quarter of the population of the earth, is fast turning to the light. The China Inland Mission, with many others, have done much. The late Dr. Goforth, of the Presbyterian mission, reports in his writings of times when the Spirit wrought in their midst as on the day of Pentecost.

What we have said of Asia, we might say of the power of Christianity in Africa. Booker Washington, the famous negro educationalist, said a few years ago of Africa, that the average negro in a state of slavery in the United States (referring of course to the days of slavery there) was better off than the free native of Africa. But conditions in Africa are changing fast, praise to our merciful God. Egypt alone has a greater population than all Canada. Their state, temporarily and spiritually, is improving steadily as the reports from that field indicate. Our missionaries tell from time to time of seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

What about America, including Canada? In