

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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EDITORIAL

The prayers that are in vain.

When we think of all the exhortations to prayer, in the Word of God, and all that He has promised to give us if we ask in prayer, it may sound strange to some of my readers to speak of prayers being in vain. Nevertheless, we believe that there are prayers offered, or perhaps it would be more proper to say prayers said, which are in vain.

The first futile prayer that I would call your attention to is, the prayer of an impenitent sinner, that is, a sinner who intends to keep on sinning and does not repent, and quit; he prays in vain. He may be a church member, and a supporter of the church. He may wax eloquent while saying the prayers which he long ago has memorized. He may think that he is on his way to Heaven. But note what God said to sinning professors of religion in Isaiah's day. When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand to tread my courts? etc. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth. They are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

And when ye spread forth your hands I will hide mine eyes from you; yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear.

Wash you make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well, etc. Isa. 1-12 to 17. If a sinner truly repents, and turns from sin, God will hear and forgive him.

We fear that our Empire will pray in vain for victory over our foes in this present war, unless we repent and turn away from our national sins, of drunkenness, Sabbath breaking and immorality. God has punished nations severely in times past for these sins. Will He not do so again?

Another prayer that is in vain, is the faithless prayer. This also is memorized and does not come from the heart. James says if we get anything from God we must ask in faith, nothing wavering, for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything from the Lord.

If a seeking, praying soul meets the conditions which God requires of him, he will find it easy to exercise faith. "If our heart condemns us not then have we confidence toward God, and what we ask we receive of him because we keep his commandments and do those things which are pleasing in his sight." John.

Still another prayer which is not only use-

less, but is injurious, is the prayer that is offered to people, or at people. This prayer is often very long, when the one who is called on to pray has a lot of things on his mind which he would like to say to the people, but is afraid that he will not get a chance, so he or often it is she, says them in her prayer, and takes much valuable time which could be used in some other way to much better advantage.

We heard one of this sort, not long ago, telling the Lord some things that he read that morning in the Telegraph Journal. I suppose he thought that the Lord had not seen or read that paper that morning, and he wanted the dear Lord to hear that interesting item of news. I have heard them tell the Lord all sorts of things that the Lord should have known already.

Jesus told of some people that he knew in his day, that prayed long prayers in public places, because they thought they would be heard for their much speaking. I think he called them hypocrites and told his disciples not to follow their example. In the closet is a good place to make long prayers. Tell God all the news about your neighbors and yourself in the secret place.

Other prayers which always seem to this writer to be worse than wasted are the concerted audible prayers, such as we often hear at our camp-meetings, when some evangelist or religious worker says, now all pray aloud at once, the Lord can hear everybody as well as one. Well, doubtless that is a fact—God can hear everyone; but when we hear that statement, we often think and sometimes say, if we are praying just to make the Lord hear, then we don't need to make any noise at all, for He knows our thoughts before we ever express them in words, and we might all pray silently and save a lot of physical energy and strained voices, sore throats, and confusion, and I am convinced that we would all be edified fully as much as we would when a dozen or more were shouting at the top of their voices, when no one could understand a sentence that was being said. Praying in public should be for two purposes: First, of course, as an act of worship, which should be always marked by reverence and godly fear. Coming into the presence of the Eternal God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, should never be done in a flippant, irreverent manner. Second, public prayers should be offered in such a way as to be an inspiration to those who hear; this cannot be done when all are praying loudly at once.

To be an inspiration to others, prayers must be offered in the Spirit, or dictated by the Holy Spirit to the suppliant, who really waits upon God, and prays as the Spirit gives him utterance. The inspired writer said, for we know not how to pray except the Spirit teach us. When one prays in this manner, the listener feels that he is having audience with the Most High, and that heaven is bending low, and "comes down our souls to greet while glory crowns the mercy seat."

A rattling off of words in a thoughtless manner rarely edifies the hearers or leads them into a spirit of worship.

I think we need to use both head and heart, if our prayers are to reach heaven and bring down blessing on the people. Paul said, "I will pray with the Spirit and I will pray with the understanding also." "The fervent effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James. "Lord teach us to pray."

"RELIGION GROWS IN RUSSIA"

The following is a letter written by a correspondent to the "Regina Leader" and selected for the Era by Mrs. E. Shaver, through the kindness of our Western Superintendent, Rev. E. G. Smith.

To the Editor,

Sir,—Re your editorial in The Leader-Post of July 5, entitled, "Russia Turns Back to Religion." You don't know the half of it. Wish we had space to answer that properly. Russia has not turned back. Russia merely shook off the false and by faith put on the true. Persecution of religion always has the same result. The false and the weak are sifted out to burn, the true and the strong remain to grow in grace.

The church as a whole had become so utterly corrupt and wicked under the leadership of the mad monk Rasputin that it literally vomited itself to death. You called it organized Christianity. It was organized religion, not Christianity; man-made and man-controlled. Out of the ashes has arisen Christianity unorganized by man, but God-controlled.

Your remarks that recent travellers from Russia have stated that a great revival of religious sentiment and of old-fashioned patriotic fervor has taken place in recent years are true, but on a greater scale than the outside world dreamed of.

Space does not permit details, but the nearest thing to what took place is the description of the day of Pentecost and what happened during the beginning of the church age. God spoke through men in languages they had not learned one word of so that others of different dialects could understand in their own language the wonderful works of God. All this happened in different parts of Russia, in caves, or open fields, or forests, wherever a few faithful were gathered together without preacher or teacher to lead them—and what happened? Stalin heard of it, sent his dreaded OGPU to put a stop to it, and not hundreds but literally thousands of the OGPU who came to kill remained to pray, many of them actually struck dumb as was Paul by the power of God.

Now Stalin has seen and has realized that there is a true as well as a false Christianity. Hence, we who are in the know, could understand why, as your statement reads, people were allowed to pray, and worship unmolested when the invasion of Hitler's army took place in Russia.

Stalin has seen God's power at work; he knows that without God's help Hitler will conquer them. There is again free worship of God in Russia. Who knows, perhaps Stalin may yet become Russia's greatest preacher. With God, all things are possible. The great shaking has begun, but think of the false that is yet to go.

H. Robert Howlett,
General Delivery, Regina, Sask.

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Editorial Note: We have heard a great deal in recent years about the progress that Atheism and Communism are making in Russia, which would make one think that the religion of Jesus Christ was a dead issue there. So we are glad to have this article to pass on to our readers, which shows that Truth never dies. "Truth crushed to earth will rise again." Thank God.

Every day remember that you have a God to glorify; a Saviour to imitate; a soul to save; virtue to acquire; heaven to seek; eternity to meditate upon; temptations to resist; the world to guard against; and perhaps death to meet.—Anon.