

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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Printed by The Times Printing Company, Printers and Publishers, Moncton, N. B.

MONCTON, N. B., DECEMBER 31ST, 1942

EDITORIAL

GOD'S PRICE FOR A REVIVAL

(Continued)

If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land. II. Chron-7:14. In addition to humbling themselves, as we mentioned in our last editorial, God says His people must pray and seek His face. But, what can we say on the all important subject of prayer? Surely there is nothing that we can say that has not been said already, and perhaps most of our readers will agree with about all we might say on prayer, while many of them will fail to practise it, and thus come short of the glory of God.

In the reports of religious workers on the great revivals of past years, they all agree that those revivals were not the result of great preaching by men of great ability like Spurgeon, Wesley, Finney, Fletcher, Moody and Edwards, as some may suppose, but those times of great refreshing from the presence of the Lord, which turned many from darkness to light, and from the power of satan unto God, were the result of much prayer. We are told that those meetings were preceded by many weeks and even months of prayer and fasting, and waiting on God. We read that in one great city in Australia where Tory and Alexander held meetings with great success, that when the evangelists arrived there, they found seventeen hundred prayer meetings being held in the people's homes and had been going on for several weeks.

An article on revivals in the Religious Telescope says that the great spiritual awakening in the United States in 1857 which saved the nation from despondency and panic was without noticable human leadership; but was one of complete dependence on prayer as its method. And the writer says the road to revival is plain. The history of the past gives us a chart for the future, and encourages us to believe that if our Lord tarries there will be another great revival, and the responsibility of the church is clear: we must think, and talk revival, and the pathway of prayer must be re-opened. And definite clear petitions must be made for a spiritual awakening.

Following are some quotations on prayer from the Religious Readers Digest: "Prayer pulls the rope below, and the great bell rings

above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell for they pray so languidly; others give an occasional pluck at the rope; but he who wins with heaven is the man who grabs the rope boldly, and pulls continually with all his might."—C. H. Spurgeon.

"I wrestled for the ingathering of souls, for multitudes of poor souls, personally in many distant places. I was in such an agony from sun half an hour high till near dark, that I was wet all over with sweat; but oh, my dear Lord did sweat blood for such poor souls, I longed for more compassion."—David Brainerd.

Readers, if we will pray and seek God's face until a real passion for lost souls comes upon us, so that we lose our desire for pleasant food, and would rather pray than eat; and then continue to pray, and hold on like Jacob of old who said to the wrestling angel: "I will not let thee go until thou bless me," I believe we may expect that according to His promise, God will hear, and will send us the revival that this poor old war ridden, sin-cursed, pleasure mad, lost world needs, and remember that such a revival must begin with a revival of prayer in our churches.

Prayer has divided seas, rolled up flowing rivers, made flinty rocks gush into fountains, quenched flames of fire, muzzled lions, disarmed poisonous vipers, marshalled the stars against the wicked, stopped the course of the moon, made the sun stand still, opened iron gates, called souls back from the dead, conquered devils, bridled the raging passions of man, destroyed vast armies, enemies of God's people, made a hungry whale give up its victim and bring Jonah safely to the shore. Some one has said prayer is the power that moves the arm that moves the world. We say, yes that is all true, but, where are the people that are willing to do without many things that we are now enjoying that we may have time, and strength to use in prayer. Where are the people that will do it for the sake of poor lost souls? Will you?

Then let us pray.—H. S. D.

PREACHERS AND DEBTS

Walter E. Isenhour

There are few things that hurt the ministry like debts which go unpaid. Too many preachers go into debt, sometimes needlessly, and seem to think it matters little about paying them. They grow careless toward their debts, and as a consequence leave a pastoral charge owing merchants and business men, or some individual, and never straighten the matter out. It isn't right. It shows the preacher to be dishonest, and if this be the case the people naturally think he is unfit for the ministry. Of all men who should be straightforward and honest in every particular it should be preachers of the Gospel. We have an influence that always counts for honesty or against honesty, for or against God and righteousness. Naturally many people put confidence in a preacher and credit him because of his high calling, or profession, as a minister of the sacred Gospel, thinking him to be honest to hold such a sacred trust. Then to betray that confidence is indeed very hurtful. Not only does it hurt the preacher who is careless and dishonest, but it hurts, in a measure, the honest minister, as some people will be afraid of him because they lost confidence in another. However, the honest preacher will always win out. As people come to know him they are not afraid to trust him. Merchants, business men, bankers, and indivi-

duals will credit him gladly, and will give him a helping hand in time of need, for they know he is absolutely straightforward and honest in every particular. How sad that so many preachers of the Gospel have made debts and left without paying them, nor even trying to pay them, nor trying to make satisfaction in some way! This hurts the cause of God very much indeed. Many a church has suffered on account of a pastor or evangelist making debts that he never paid.

Many honest preachers are in debt, but they always pay out if they keep able to preach, or able to work. If they get disabled absolutely and can't pay that is quite different. Creditors always consider this. However, there is nearly always a way to pay a just and honest debt. We have found it so across the years. God will help us to do so. "Where there is a will there is a way." Absolute honesty finds many a way to meet a debt, even if one has to sacrifice and suffer to get it done. Every preacher of the Gospel should be known wherever he goes as truly honest and dependable. This should characterize his ministry.

To see a preacher wearing nice clothes, riding in a nice automobile, and perhaps living in a beautiful home of his own, or even a parsonage, and then having debts hanging over him that he is careless about paying, or refuses to pay, is disgusting to say the best of it. It is far better to wear cheaper clothes, ride in a cheaper automobile, live in a cheaper house, and get along cheaper in different ways and pay debts, or stay out of debt, than to live high and be dishonest. Beloved, it's so. No doubt many a preacher wears costly clothes and rides in a beautiful, costly automobile that he is in debt for and will never pay the same. However, it is only a question of time until he will lose out and go down. People will come to distrust him, doubt him, lose confidence in him, refuse to hear him preach. He will lose rather than gain. Perhaps some great pulpit would be given him that he will never get because of his dishonesty.

It is better to be a little preacher and be honest than a big preacher and be dishonest. The little man will rise while the big man will go down. One may have a great education, fill a great pulpit, preach great sermons, win popularity and fame, yet if he is dishonest it will, sooner or later, tell on him. It will undermine his ability, his usefulness, and will bring him to defeat.

As pastor and evangelist through the years I have held a number of pastorates, and preached as evangelist in other places, and have known preachers to leave debts behind they never paid. The most of them could have done so if they would. They went away and seemed to forget it. However, merchants, bankers, business men, and individuals whom they were owing never forgot it. And of course the preachers didn't forget it either, but let it go. Naturally they hurt the cause of God, and doubtless hurt more than we realize.

A real man of God as minister of the Gospel—honest, straightforward, sincere, dependable, trustworthy, upright in life, heart, and soul—is deserving. It is our indispensable duty to stand by him with our money, our earthly substance, our prayers, our good words, our helping hand and best efforts, but then we are not under obligation to support the dishonest preacher. We had better give our means to the honest man than the dishonest, and put them out in a way that shall advance the cause of God.—Christian Witness.