

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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Riverside Camp Meeting

Robinson's, Maine, Aug. 7th to 17th

Held under the auspices of the Reformed Baptist Church, yet interdenominational in spirit, has for many years stood for the gospel of full salvation and seeks to promote scriptural holiness. This meeting has been a blessing to thousands of souls who have sought and found salvation

from sin at our altars for the past fifty years, and we expect this year to be no exception. Let all lovers of spiritual meetings pray and commend and do our best to make this a great meeting. God is all-wise and ready and will do His part to bless us. Will we let Him?

THE DESIRE OF A SINCERE HEART

Rev. J. M. Byars

"Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him." 2 Cor. 5:9. The meaning of this text is readily seen if pondered in the light of God. When Paul said, "Wherefore, we labor . . ." he meant they made it a point of constant effort, or as one commentator renders it, "we are ambitious that whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him." Wesley once wrote in his journal: "I am not afraid the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist, either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should exist only as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out." Wesley feared lest the representatives of God fail to make their every-day living a point of constant effort, or lest they lose their ambition to be accepted of God.

Paul was so concerned about his relationship to God he said: "Whether present or absent, we may be accepted." It made no difference to him whether he lived or died, whether he had plenty or was in poverty, whether in heaven or on earth, whether his message was accepted or rejected, whether he was well treated or abused—his aim in life was "that we may be accepted of Him."

What moved Paul to take up his pen and put his heart on record for men to read? He tells us himself in 2 Corinthians 5:5, "God who hath given us the earnest of the Spirit." He knew God had produced in his heart feelings, hopes, and desires that he did not have when he was in "spiritual darkness." After God had given him the earnest of the Spirit he said: "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

After Paul received the assurance he was a new creature in Christ Jesus the love of Christ began to constrain him. "For the love of Christ constraineth us. . . ." v. 14. He felt a dynamic urge pressing, impelling, and exciting him to "become all things to all men that he might win some." The constraining love of Christ has a

restraining effect upon him in that it kept him ever conscious of the possibility that he might become a castaway. He remembered that "all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in the body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." Paul had a clear conception of what he had been saved from, and this enabled him to see the need of other men's souls. He saw clearly that "if one died for all then were all dead", v. 14.

Paul's authority to proclaim the needs of men and point them to "One who had died for all" came out of the conviction that he was a representative of the King and Kingdom he had cast his lot with. Hear him once more: "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ", v. 20. God placed upon him the task and privilege of reconciling others to Himself, and Paul accepted it. Are you willing to go forth and negotiate with men in regard to their relation with God?

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

The doctrine of the absolute perseverance of the saints is the first card which the devil played against men: "Ye shall not surely die, if ye break the law of perfection." This fatal card won the game. Mankind and paradise were lost. The artful serpent had too well succeeded at his first game to forget that lucky card at his second. See him transforming himself into an angel of light on the pinnacle of the temple. There he plays over again his old game against the Son of God. Out of the Bible he pulls the very card which won our first parents, and swept the stake, paradise; yea, swept it with the besom of destruction. "Cast thyself down," says he, "for it is written" that all things shall work together for thy good, thy very fall not excepted: "He shall give his angels charge concerning thee, and in their hands, they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." The tempter, thanks be to Christ, lost his game at that time; but he did not lose his card; and it is probable that he play it around against you all, only with some variations. Let me mention one among a thousand. He promised our Lord

that God's angels should bear him up in their hands, if he threw himself down; and it is not unlikely that he will promise you greater things still. Nor should I wonder if he was bold enough to hint, that when you cast yourself down, God Himself will bear you up in His hands, Yea, in His arms of everlasting love.

O ye men of God, learn wisdom by the fall of Adam! O ye anointed sons of the Most High, learn watchfulness by the conduct of Christ! If He was afraid to tempt the Lord His God, will you dare do it? If He rejected as poison, the hook of the absolute perseverance of the saints, though it was baited with Scripture, will you swallow it down as if it were honey out of the Rock of Ages? No: through faith in Christ, the Scriptures have made you wise unto salvation. You will not only fly with all speed from evil, but from the very appearance of evil; and, when you stand on the brink of a temptation, far from entering into it, under any pretense whatever, you will leap back into the bosom of Him who says, "Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation, for," though "the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak." I grant, that evangelically speaking, the weakness of the flesh is not sin; but yet, "the deceitfulness of sin" creeps in at this door; and, by his means, not a few of God's children, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world, through the sanctifying knowledge of Christ, under plausible pretenses, have been again entangled therein, and overcome. Let their falls make you cautious. Ye have put on the whole armour of God; O keep it on, and use it with all prayer, that ye may to the last, stand complete in Christ, and be more than conquerors through Him that has loved us.—John Fletcher.

A wrong in the hands of men who are true to it will surely defeat a right in the hands of men who are untrue to it.—John G. Woolley.

The main trouble about government is that the men who have wisdom enough to undertake it have wisdom enough to stay clear of it.