

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —

REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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EDITORIAL

PREPARING FOR ENLARGEMENT

"Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes . . ." Faith sets the boundaries of God's kingdom. The work that Jesus began to do must be carried on by His apostles. The fortunes of the apostolic church fall into the hands of the successors of the New Testament era. Then follow the bright periods and the dark, the fruitful and the barren.

The church has fallen into decay, "the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means." This is a true description of the religious state at the opening of the sixteenth century. Then God appeared to Luther, implanted in his soul the mighty dynamic of a living faith, and the Reformation was born. Two hundred years ago interest in spiritual things had all but ebbed out in England. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof," the church was ineffective in the face of degenerating conditions, and the Island Kingdom tottered on the brink of bloody revolution. Then God kindled a fire in the heart of Wesley, the primitive glory of Christianity was restored, and England was saved.

And so the scenes of church history change back and forth, and always the nature of the account is determined by the condition of the church itself. A decadent church means a degenerating society. A God-blessed, Spirit-filled church lifts all of life, individual, domestic, and national, into a new level. We are not straitened and hampered in spiritual life and service because of the flood tide of evil, we are thus hindered because of the ebb tide of righteousness. "When my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and turn from their wicked ways, then . . . I will hear . . . I will come . . . I will heal."

We recognize the need of a spiritual offensive in these our times. God calls for it. Many sin-enslaved souls groan for it. The task is by no means an easy one, satisfactory results can not be obtained without thorough preparation. If we fail here, we shall be like the man who began to build and was not able to finish, or as the man who led his army into battle only to be chased from the field be-

cause he did not take account of the enemy's strength and prepare accordingly.

There is the need of a great volume of intercession ascending to God. We wrestle against principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places. The conflict is primarily a spiritual one, and spiritual preparedness is fundamentally important. Programme, personal appeal, or something else purely human, are capable of gaining a following and providing numerical strength for a church organization, but a real soul-winning Christ-glorifying effort, must take root in the souls of the prayerful.

Even with God on our side, we can only do what we dare to try. The challenge of the great missionary-saint, "Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God," is timely. The Lord awaits the action of the individual or group who will venture to attempt the impossible for His glory, and He will move swiftly to bless. "Enlarge . . . stretch forth . . . spare not . . . fear not . . . for I have called thee . . ." Sometimes, perhaps very often, I believe the Lord is impatient with our timid ventures, as Elisha was with Joash.

Moreover, when we set ourselves to gain some Divinely-appointed objective, we must be prepared to make whatever sacrifice is necessary to take us to the goal. The financial demands of an undertaking worthy of God and the salvation of immortal souls, will call for sacrifice. Literal obedience to the challenging command to enlargement, involves financial expenditure. We must be prepared to "give until it hurts" and then give until it stops hurting. If we do there will be no necessity to call a halt because of the lack of money.

So let us make ourselves ready, and then to the task with a will and a faith that God can bless. Let us move our boundary lines and "spread Scriptural holiness over these lands"

OUR REASONABLE SERVICE

The life of holiness is often misunderstood by the critical world. They imagine the sanctified man professes absolute perfection. This is not the case. Being human, he has certain mental and physical infirmities and certain peculiarities incident to his race and environment. Spiritual culture corrects many of these in a measure. But holiness does remove the sinful nature that is contrary to God and the divine likeness. It so changes the motives, the desires, the will and the affections that they are directed to please the Lord. In other words the heart is so cleansed that it becomes natural to love the Lord with all the heart, mind, soul and strength, and one's neighbour as himself.

This transformation is not the result of human effort, but is the operation of the grace of God. "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin." When one asked Mr. Wesley to point out to them one holy man, he replied, "If I knew one I would not tell you, for like Herod, you would seek the young child's life to destroy it." Nevertheless, God who knoweth the hearts of men, beholdeth a great company who are walking before Him in righteousness and true holiness. Some day they will stand before Him with white robes and palms in their hands. This may be the privilege of all men who will.—Canadian Free Methodist.

FRIENDS

(Continued from last issue)

By the Associate Editor

"And I say unto you, make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that when ye fail, they may receive you unto everlasting habitations." Luke 16-9.

In our last article we spoke of making friends of people, and also, how few of our associates, and even relatives, will prove to be our real friends. Many will appear friendly and go with us as long as they feel that they are profiting by our company, but let their pay stop, and the true nature of their friendship will appear. "A friend loveth at all times."

Notice, please, that in our text our Lord is recommending making friends, not of people, but of the mammon of unrighteousness. Now it is generally agreed by Bible students that the mammon of unrighteousness spoken of here means material possessions, such as money, houses lands, stocks, bonds, business situations, etc., the things by which we obtain our daily bread.

According to the inspired Word, these lawful things may become our enemies, or, we may make friends of them. Perhaps it is safe to say that the place that **things** hold in our lives determines whether they are our enemies or friends. As long as **things** are our servants, we may make them our friends; but let them gain the mastery over us, as they often do, and they may become our enemies.

Did not the inspired apostle say, "the love of money is the root of all evil?" Not the money, but the love of it. When money or anything else, or even persons capture our love, our soul's affections, then they become our masters, and our enemies, for we will do things for them often which we should not do. Hence the reason for the first and great command: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength," and "shalt have no other gods before Me." In citing a concrete case where one's possessions became his enemy, I would direct your attention to the rich young ruler of whom we read in the gospels. He came to Jesus asking, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Our Lord told him to go sell what he had and give to the poor and he would have treasure in heaven. The record says he went away sorrowful for he had great possessions. He loved his riches more than he loved God, so he was an idolater. His riches were his greatest enemy; they stood between him and eternal life, which he was seeking, so they would send his soul to hell. Barnabas made friends of his possessions. The Word says he had lands, and sold them and brought the price to the apostles, to be given to the poor. It also says he was full of the Holy Ghost and faith, and much people were added to the Lord. Ananias and Sapphira had land and sold it, and pretended to bring all the proceeds to the apostles as Barnabas and others had done, but they kept back part of the price, lied to the apostles, and died under the judgment of God. Their possessions became their enemy and damned their souls.

We have known some parents who worked hard, and saved their earnings, and under the blessing of God accumulated quite a large amount of property; then died, and left it to unsaved children who wasted their parents' hard-earned money in riotous living. It had