

# The King's Highway

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## THIS IS THE CHURCH'S DAY

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Never has the Christian Church faced a day of greater opportunity than the present. The conditions, the uncertainties and the shock occasioned by the war forms the basis of the church's present opportunity. Millions of people are now shaken from their complacency, they are now, as never before in their lives, possessed of a consciousness of the uncertainty and instability of life and things as these have existed. Along with the shaking of the political and national status of the world there has been a shaking of the foundations of people's lives. They are conscious of being weighed in the righteous balances of God and found wanting.

An indication of the revival of religious interest in this nation is seen among men in military service. The attendance upon religious services is greater proportionately, so we are told, than among people of civilian life; many of these men who previously were not interested in the church, or had only a casual interest in religious matters, now seek out the chaplain or attend the religious services, and not a few of these are being converted, confirmed or becoming communicants of the faith of their choice, according to the practices of these different religious bodies.

There is a renewal of interest in religious matters on the part of many in civil life. The changes of life brought on by the war, grief due to loved ones entering military services or at news of their death, the darkness of the hour, the uncertainty of the future, the disappointment and disillusionment because so much of life as it has been lived has been found so shallow and without meaning, the insecurity experienced by so many because they see shaken the things and institutions heretofore considered substantial, drives people to seek for something more substantial and secure. There is an interest in God and religion among the ordinary men of the street that is new to this generation.

This is the Church's day. If the Church has no message, no help, no healing balm, no offer of security for a day like this, it is failing at the point of man's greatest need. But the Church as the body of Christ, His glorious representative in the world today, has the same message as He gave, has the same healing power and consoling ministry that He brought, has the same good news of salvation and security that He proclaimed. We have the bold affirmation in the Scriptures, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever." He is the same not only in His heavenly ministry of intercession, but also He is the same in the manifestation of His power and grace through His body, the Church. But the Church must be consciously yielded to Him to be a channel of His power, to be the minister of His sympathy and healing balm, and to be His mouthpiece in proclaiming the good news of redemption. The Church

must work together with Him actively and wholeheartedly, losing its life for Christ's sake, giving itself sacrificially for the salvation of the people today, if the power of Jesus is permitted to work now as it has worked in the yesterdays.

The very conditions of the day call people back to God. They call the Church back to God, to a renewal of its devotion to Christ and to the simplicity of the gospel, to a new realization of the Church's mission to the people of this world, to a new consciousness of the individual's responsibility in the work of the Church and in bringing others to Christ. They call for a new appraisal of the place of the Church in the world, of the value of its spiritual resources, of its indispensability as the light of the world, of its stewardship as the custodian of the only remedy for the world's ills.

This is the Church's day of opportunity. What will we do with it? Jesus now definitely calls us to lift up our eyes and look upon the fields, for they are white already to the harvest. Would to God that we were as anxious and zealous to harvest in this spiritual field as the farmers of the nation now are to harvest their crops with the acute shortage of farm hands. The Church may minister to people today in a way that it has not been privileged to do for a generation. The Church has open doors for evangelistic efforts today—doors that have been indifferent or closed for a decade or more. What are we going to do with these opportunities?

This solemn fact must be ever before us. We are coming to judgment. The Church will be called upon to give an account of its stewardship and will be judged in the light of its opportunities and privileges. We will be rewarded to the extent that we have filled the place in this day and generation to which God has called us, or we will be condemned for our failure to fill that place. It is a fearful and solemn obligation to be a leader in the church, to be responsible for its policies, its program, its ministry. Our leaders, from those carrying the heaviest responsibility to those carrying the least, will be called upon to give account of their stewardship in these obligations; they will be rewarded according to their faithfulness, or condemned according to their failure to have vision and to be faithful in ministry and leadership. What will we have to answer the faithful Judge when He calls to judgment the church of this day? How can we excuse our indifference, our laziness, our selfishness, our lack of vision, our being "at ease in Zion?" This is the Church's day of great opportunity—your day, my day of opportunity. What are we doing with it?—Herald of Holiness.

The least trouble comes from church members whose names are on the cradle roll. They cry but you can whip them.

DON'T JOIN THE U. F. C.!

By Rev. F. A. Daw

Sir Stafford Cripps, leader of the British House of Commons, is reported to have made the following statement: "The past has been engulfed in a supremely difficult present and future; and we must walk warily, as we still have a great many formidable enemies. The unconscious fifth column is enormous."

I had heard and read a good deal about the fifth column and its activities, but the term "unconscious fifth column" struck me as being somewhat different. Who could they be? A little thought brought what I believe to be the answer. They are the people who would indignantly protest against being accused of plotting and taking sides with the enemy, but who were, nevertheless, doing those things and adopting those attitudes which gave encouragement and aid to the foe. Conceit, complacency, careless talk, indifference, indolence, useless criticism of leaders and of the efforts of others, selfish indulgence, chafing at the demands for sacrifice and such like would be some of the identification marks of the unconscious fifth column.

And then I thought of those in the church who were at ease in Zion; who had lost their first love and become luke-warm; those who were unwittingly sowing dissension and strife by being busybodies, talebearers, and careless in talk and criticism; those who were gadding about to escape discipline, who had little or no sense of responsibility and loyalty; those who were worldly in mind and practice; those who had lost the vision and the spirit of sacrifice for the cause and who refused to be rallied to an earnest, intense, passionate prosecution of the task to us by our Lord in the Holy War against sin and the powers of darkness. Such folk would bitterly resent being classed as spiritual fifth columnists, and yet they were, even though unconscious of the fact, doing the very thing that made easier and more successful the work of the avowed enemies of Christ and His church. "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad," is the word of the Captain of our salvation.

If this article locates you among the unconscious fifth column, we plead with you to leave their ranks immediately. Ask forgiveness, seek the cleansing of the blood of Christ, be filled with the Spirit! and you will then find your place in the ranks of those who, in spite of the cost in "blood and sweat and toil and tears," wage an "all-out warfare" against the trinity of evil, the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Settling an argument is a bit more difficult than settling dust. Words have a way of cutting.

Employment is nature's physician, and is essential to human happiness.—Galen.

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