

# THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —  
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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## EDITORIAL

### CONSOLIDATING OUR GAINS

Much emphasis is placed upon evangelism and revival effort, and much is needed. No spiritually alert person can fail to appreciate the vital ministry this type of work has contributed to the Christian church.

Revival meetings almost invariably result in the refreshing of the faithful, the strengthening of the weak, the restoration of the backslidden and the salvation of the unregenerate. The results of earnest, humble, God-centred evangelistic effort are ever gratifying and important to the life and growth of the church.

There is, however, an angle to successful revival effort that we need to give due respect, and that is the "follow up" work of the pastor and church. While the absence of intensive evangelistic effort may result in comparative barrenness in respect to the salvation of souls, the lack of careful and patient post revival labour may mean the loss of much or all the ground gained through the prayerful labour of the revival campaign.

Young Christians need patient, kindly pastoral care, and a healthy, invigorating spiritual atmosphere. Spiritual children "born in the fire" cannot "live in the smoke." If a church aroused by searching sermons and stirred by fervent praying lapses into spiritual lethargy after the "special" meetings have closed, the tide of blessing will recede and may carry with its ebb much of the benefit resultant from the recent flood tide of heavenly grace and victory.

The young Christian needs the spiritual nurture of a ministry rich in the Word and pregnant with prayer. If there is to be growth in grace there must be food well selected and carefully prepared. Every church member should assume special responsibility in respect to the maintenance of personal piety and the tender care of the new-born babes. A word of encouragement, exhortation, or warning may spell defeat or victory for a son or daughter in the gospel. A prayer of personal concern may bring help sorely needed by one unskilled in the art of spiritual warfare.

Oh, let us hold what we gain! God save us from drifting backward over territory gained

## Milk - Fed Christians

By the Associate Editor

"I have fed you with milk, and not with meat."—1 Cor. 3-2.

In this letter to the Church at Corinth, the apostle complains because of their lack of spirituality. He writes: "Brethren, I could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, as unto babes in Christ," and says further, I have fed you with milk, and not with meat, for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

He found the same fault with the church of the Hebrews, see Heb. 5-12. "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God, and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat, for everyone that useth milk is a babe."

The apostle had no fault to find with feeding babies milk, for he said he had done the same himself: Also Peter admonishes new born babes that they may grow thereby: He knew that in the natural world milk is nature's food for the young, not only of man but also of many kinds of animals: And whereas milk contains all the elements necessary for a perfect food for the young, the Holy Spirit uses it as a fitting symbol of some portions of truth which he calls the first principles of the oracles of God."

What the apostle did complain about was, not that spiritual babes were being born in these churches. No, he knew that babes were necessary before we could have strong adult Christians; he knew people must be born again, and become babes in Christ in order to belong to the family of God: Being baptized and uniting with a society called a church does not change sinners into Christians: Our Lord said, "Ye MUST be born again." What he did complain about was that they remained too long in spiritual baby-hood. He said: "When for the time ye ought to be teachers." Heb. 5-12. That is, you have been on the Christian way long enough to be teachers, but you are still in spiritual infancy and need still to be taught the A B C as it were, of spiritual things. So we see that time is not the greatest factor in making progress in spiritual things.

Notice some symptoms he mentions which indicate a lack of spiritual progress, besides their desire for milk or a light diet. He writes whereas there is among you envying and strife and divisions. These symptoms are still quite common in some religious societies. Note: Paul does not unchristianize these babes in Christ, but he does say that they are yet carnal, and their divisions seemed to be over their choices of preachers. One said, I am of Paul; another, I am of Apollos, or I am of Cephas, etc. Because they could not have their own way they would not work agreeably with others who differed with them, but stirred up strife and made divisions in the church. Babies are easily offended, and easily pleased and amused.

Some time ago we heard two men who attended the same church, commenting on the preaching of a certain man whom we thought

at so great a cost. Let us be sure that we strengthen our stakes as well as lengthen our cords.

preached a very light, simple gospel. One man who had been a professing Christian for many years, and was the older of the two, said, that is the best preaching I ever heard. The other who was much younger and had not been a Christian nearly as long as the other, said, I got very little food from his messages, and did not care for his preaching at all. The two men whom I knew very well, I think were about equal intellectually and educationally, but the difference was in their spiritual condition. The older man had made very little progress in his Christian life, while the younger one was a strong Christian character, and hence wanted the strong meat of God's word to feed his soul; he had gotten out of that state which Paul calls carnality or spiritual babyhood.

Now as a remedy for that state of spiritual childhood and carnality, Paul exhorts those Hebrews to go on unto Perfection. Heb. 6-1. Now as we said before, it is not the number of years that have elapsed since we were converted that determines the progress we have made: Time is not the greatest factor in carrying us forward: But prayer, faith and obedience to God, with a strong desire to be at our best for Him, or as our Lord put it, to hunger and thirst after righteousness, that leads us to an entire consecration of our all to God, then faith becomes operative whereby we touch Him, and instantaneously the Holy Ghost coming upon us with holy fire, baptizes and burns out carnality, and we move out of spiritual childhood, and become strong men and women for God, who hunger for the strong meat of truth, and will no longer be satisfied with a milk diet.

### THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ is preparing a bride for Himself. He is calling men and women and boys and girls from sin, and with them He is building His Church or His "Called out." "Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph. 5:25-27). These called out ones He wants to set apart, hallow, consecrate, and purify. They are a separate people forsaking the love of the world and of the things of the world and cleaving to Him only. His church must not be flirting with others. They must be wholly his. By His death He has made provision for this work of grace in their hearts. "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." (Heb. 13:12) Through the revelation of the Word and the merit of the shed blood, we by the agency of the Holy Spirit may be set apart and made clean and pure, in readiness for the wedding day. Walking in good works we shall be busy for our Lord but unsoiled in the midst of a sinful world.

Christ will not present to Himself that which is sinful. Through His death He has made provision for the redeeming of men from the practice of sin and their purification from the inner love and tendency toward it. May the full merit of Calvary be meted out to us in response to our faith, fitting us to be part of that glorious church which He shall present to Himself at His coming. Then we shall go in with Him to the marriage supper. Praise the Lord!