

## THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —  
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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## EDITORIAL

### A NEGLECTED FIELD

In the realm of Christian endeavour, with our programmes for the extension of the church, the advancement of the foreign missionary enterprise, the salvation of youth, etc., we are lacking in vision and initiative in one all-important phase of our work—the salvation of the children.

In our evangelistic efforts we pray earnestly for the backslider of many years, and seek zealously for the young men and women who are in their teens or early twenties, but there is no personal, aggressive interest in the juniors. If one of tender years moves to seek the Lord Jesus, they are dealt with kindly but not thoroughly; we do not place the importance on the meeting in which "only a few children were at the altar" that we do on those in which adults seek after God, and in the "follow up" work of the revival campaign, while we seek to encourage and instruct the men and women who have found the Lord, we leave the boys and girls, the little lambs, to make their own way.

The history of the church abounds with ample proof of the importance of child conversion. Some of the greatest saints and servants of the Lord were saved in early years, from five to twelve years of age. We have on record the testimonies of many who declare they found Christ as children and continued to follow him through the days of adolescence, middle life and down to old age. There is no reason whatever to doubt the possibility of genuine conversion among those of primary and junior ages.

The challenge of God to the Church of today is "save the children!" The moral condition of the world is such that the presence of Christ in the life of the boy and girl is absolutely indispensable to their safety and well-being. The youth in grade school and high school have a poor chance of withstanding the pressure of worldliness and sin in our times if they have not been born of the Spirit and are living in right relationship with God. The pastor and church, the mother and father have a tremendous responsibility upon them in this respect. It is our task to so teach, lead and pray for these little ones that we may

lead them to Christ ere we "send them forth as sheep among wolves" to make their way in the world.

Would not a slogan, "the children for Christ," be timely? What about meetings in all our churches specially designed for the salvation of the juniors? Could we not issue a call to prayer, special prayer, that these little lambs be gathered into the fold? Surely such efforts would be richly rewarded in the protection and moral preservation of this generation and the preparation for the church and world of tomorrow of many fine characters and workers who would not have to suffer through life because of the spoiling efforts of the sins of youth.

Here is a task that calls for our best in praying, planning and labour.

### PENTECOST

The disciples whom Jesus commanded to tarry for the coming of the Holy Spirit had a background of training, experience, and education which no other group of men had before nor since. They sat at the feet of Jesus, the Master Teacher of the Ages, over three years. They lived, traveled, and ate with him during these years. They witnessed his great miracles; they heard his great teachings, such as the Sermon on the Mount. Their knowledge of Jesus was first hand.

The disciples were eyewitnesses to all of the remarkable events transpiring in connection with the last week of his earthly life. They were with him in his triumphal entry. They were with him in his humiliation. They saw him in the Garden, and they saw him upon the cross. They saw the empty tomb on the first Easter morning. They saw the Master with the risen body as he appeared to them repeatedly over a period of forty days. It would seem that this marvelous training, and this experience which was the privilege of no other group of men before, nor since, would have been sufficient to prepare them for their life-work. Wonderful and marvelous as these things had been, they were not sufficient as a substitute for Pentecost.

The last command which Jesus gave to His disciples was: "Tarry ye in the City of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." The church is deceived when she thinks that any program of culture, education, or acquaintance with social and economic problems can serve as a substitute for Pentecost. No amount of good resolutions passed by religious bodies can serve as a substitute for Pentecost. No amount of learning obtained in school, or experience obtained in travel, research and investigation, can take the place of Pentecost.

Pentecost means inner power, unseen strength. It is inner health. A doctor who was giving me an examination said: "It is the inner health that counts." A man may look perfectly well outwardly, and yet be inwardly sick. Pentecost means the purification of the spiritual bloodstream. Impurity in the blood means ill health. At Pentecost the disciples received an inward cleansing and purification. The apostle Peter pointed out that the work achieved by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was a work of cleansing.

It is not uncommon for the doctor to dis-

cover some impurity in the bloodstream of a patient. Impurity in the blood is quickly manifested in crippled attitudes. A man with such impurity cannot come to the full measure of physical strength. Such a man is lacking in vitality. He moves slowly. His actions indicate clearly that he is lacking in the "go" and the "push" which he should have. We have many Christians who have impurity in the spiritual bloodstream. They move slowly their language is lacking in spiritual vitality. Such Christians need Pentecost.

Pentecost is an epoch preceded and followed by the processes of growth. It was for the hundred and twenty disciples in the Upper Room an epoch of consecration, cleansing and endowment of power. In the case of the disciples, the process of growth, before Pentecost, included all of those experiences from the day that they were called to be disciples of Jesus, until the Holy Ghost was poured out upon them in the Upper Room. These past experiences paved the way, and prepared them for the great event that transpired in the Upper Room. Even greater processes of growth followed Pentecost than preceded it. The removal of the physical impediment which checks the growth of a child, enables the child to grow more rapidly than ever.

Pentecost vitalizes the foundational, historical and factual elements of our Christian religion in personal experience. The resurrection was factually established, but the resurrection needed to be established in an inner, personal experience. There would have been no Christian Church if the resurrection had not been followed by the day of Pentecost. The factual elements of the Christian faith were glorious indeed, including the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus. Marvelous and wonderful as these facts were, they were not sufficient to meet the need of the Christian Church. The church must have something more than historical acquaintance with the great foundation facts of the Christian faith. Unless the historical facts of the Christian faith are vitalized in an inner Christian experience, the church will be lacking in power.

The factual elements of courtship are vitalized in personal experience in marriage. In marriage the relationship of the betrothed is changed into an abiding presence. Courtship points to marriage. Without marriage there is lacking the abiding presence. In courtship there is an intermittent presence which points to the abiding presence in marriage. The relationship of the intermittent presence during the forty days of Jesus after the resurrection and before the ascension, was changed to an abiding presence at Pentecost.

Jesus built his kingdom, not on size and outward appearance, but on the inner purity and power of a few. God can do more with a few who have inner power than with large numbers without it. So great was the inner power of the hundred and twenty, following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room, that they commanded the attention of the entire city. We read of no large number of conversions in connection with the resurrection of Jesus. The largest number of disciples of which we have any record to which Jesus appeared was five hundred. Something happened on the day of Pentecost that had never happened before in the history of the