

# THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —  
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

Published Semi-Monthly at Moncton, N. B.,  
by a Committee of the Alliance  
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— SUBSCRIPTION PRICE —

Per year, in advance	\$1.50
Ministers, per year	1.00
Four months' trial subscription	.40
Sample Copy	Free
United States Subscribers	1.50
Ministers, U. S. A.	1.00

SPECIAL NOTICE

All correspondence for The Highway should reach us before the 12th and 25th of each month.  
The King's Highway, Box 77, Moncton, N. B.

Printed by Moncton Publishers Ltd.,  
Printers and Publishers, Moncton, N. B.

MONCTON, N. B., DECEMBER 31ST, 1946

## EDITORIAL

"I RESOLVE . . ."

The concentrated force of the human will is an unknown quantity. What the limit of man's ability to resist or accomplish on the strength of his God-given liberty to choose or refuse no one can tell. We only know that this quality has enabled individuals to accomplish remarkable deeds and realize outstanding victories. By sheer force of steadfast purpose, people have turned night into day, failure into success, defeat into victory. Link this amazing power to the grace of God and its potentialities increase mightily. If the "I will" of man unites with the "I will" of God, and abides in that union, nothing shall be impossible.

A church in a certain community was losing ground. Attendance had fallen off, finances were lacking, and worst of all, altars were barren. The minister of the church taking a survey of the situation said that he reached two decisions. First, the church needed a new pastor, and second, that he would be that new pastor. He set himself to careful and prayerful self-examination, and confessing his prayerlessness, lack of soul burden and power in the ministration of the Word, humbly appealed to God for forgiveness and the renewal of Divine blessing. Speedily came the answer from heaven, and he, clothed with spiritual might arose to lead his people to revival. The waste places were inhabited and the work of that church flourished again. He might have brooded over the prevalence of evil and the seeming lack of interest in spiritual things until despair and bitterness engulfed him, but by the power of high resolve he took a different course.

D. L. Moody once heard a speaker say: "The world waits to see what God can do with a man wholly consecrated to Him." The challenge of that statement aroused Moody and he said within his heart "By the grace of God I will be that man." The history of his fruitful labours proves that this was no mere emotional impulse; it was the decision of a human being in whom there was resident power to follow the steep and arduous course which led to the objective of his high resolve.

Circumstances may be unfavourable, past experience disappointing and unsatisfactory, but if in the dawning of the New Year we

shall resolve by the grace of God to conquer our foes and banish our fears, and put our hearts into the decision, the miracle of recovery and accomplishment will be born.

Heaven and earth eagerly await the action of the man who by the power of steadfast purpose, will take the highway to success and victory during 1947.

I saw a human life ablaze with God;  
I felt a power divine,  
As through an empty vessel of frail clay  
I saw God's glory shine.  
Then woke I from a dream, and cried aloud:  
"My Father, give to me  
The blessing of a life consumed by God,  
That I may live for Thee."

## WORTHLESS SUBSTITUTES

By H. S. Dow

For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.—Jer. 2-13.

By His prophet Jeremiah, God laid some very serious charges against his ancient people Israel, and their spiritual leaders, the priests: He said they prophesied falsely, and "my people love to have it so." Isaiah also called the religious leaders dumb dogs, that cannot bark, and loved to slumber, etc.

The words of our text suggest that His people were guilty of making and using substitutes in their religious devotions. In economic life, the custom of making, and using substitutes for, or in place of genuine articles is a very common one indeed, especially since the last war which took so many things away from us, things which we had been in the habit of using: so we found that the manufacturers had made substitutes for about every article of merchandise, some of them were very good indeed, and served us very well and made it possible for us to spare the better things to use in the prosecution of the war, which we are all thankful has come to an end.

But, what shall we say about men using substitutes instead of the genuine article in their religious lives, and in the work of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ? Has not God prescribed a method by which his work can be carried on successfully? And can we, or dare we try to improve on His method of doing things, and expect to succeed?

Has he not over, and over again in His word, emphasized the fact that the Holy Spirit is the most important, and essential factor in the promotion of his work? He said to his prophet anciently, "It is not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord". and when God called men to serve him in the capacity of prophets and kings, he put his Spirit upon them; when Jesus was about to leave his infant church, his disciples, He commanded them to not depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, for said He, "ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto Me, etc."

So essential is the Holy Spirit to the promotion of the gospel, and the work of evangelism, and saving souls, that we can use no substitute. No doubt my readers will agree with what we have said, and perhaps wonder what we mean by substitutes for the Holy Spirit in religious work. Well, let us ask another question: When you think of all the special effort that is being made in our churches

by pastors, and evangelists to get men saved, preaching by good men, gifted men, eloquent, educated men, and then consider the visible results in the salvation of souls, were you ever tempted to think, that there must be something wrong with us, or our methods? Especially in view of all the promises that God has made to us about answering our prayers if we will do certain things?

Is it possible that we are placing more emphasis upon some merely human things than we are upon the work of the Holy Spirit? What shall we say about modern education, which men are seeking, to prepare themselves for the gospel ministry. Are we in any danger of making that a substitute for the sanctifying power and anointing of the Holy Spirit? Oh I know that Paul wrote Timothy to study, to show himself approved unto God, etc., and we are not decrying education in its proper place, if not used as a substitute. If education is as important as some seem to think, why did Jesus not command His disciples to seek that instead of tarrying for the Holy Ghost, let me ask? There were certainly schools where those ignorant fishermen might have acquired an education in those days, if it was so necessary. Of course we know that men can be educated and also be filled with the Holy Spirit, as Paul was. But how often do we meet young fellows who have spent some time in a college, and seem to think they have a lot in their heads, while their hearts seem to be as empty and dry as a last year's bird's nest.

Again, are we not in danger of substituting mere human wisdom, and plans, and programmes in our church work, instead of going to God in prayer, and supplication and intercession until we get the mind of the Spirit, and He leads us in the matter of calling evangelists, etc.?

Please permit us to ask one more question: Is it not possible that some times the evangelist or preacher or pastor may be guilty of substituting mere human effort instead of preaching the gospel with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven.—I Pet. 1-12. Preachers may become great actors or imitators; the Holy Spirit manifests his presence in the message in various ways, when the preacher is speaking under the divine anointing. Some times he will be inspired, or moved to great earnestness, sometimes to great tenderness, even to tears, in his message as the Spirit sees that the hearers need; sometimes he may be moved to use sharpness in reproving hypocrisy as our Lord did. And all these different demonstrations will be used of God to accomplish His purposes in the salvation of men.

Now is this not the temptation which comes to the preacher which makes him an actor? He thinks, "whereas I was blest and the people were convicted, moved and blessed when I preached so earnestly, I will do so again." Hence he shouts loudly, jumps about, pounds the pulpit, stamps his feet and like Sampson of old says, I will go out and shake myself as before, thinking that the same results would follow as when he preached aforetime. Or he may be tempted to affect great tenderness to the point that he tries to shed tears, but nothing happens, no results follow. The people are not moved or convicted as when he preached that way, before. Why the difference?

He does not seem to realize that with all his acting that spiritually-minded people see that there is still something lacking in his message. We heard an evangelist one night speak