

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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EDITORIAL

WE NEED THE HOLY GHOST

In the soul-winning, character building work of the church, it is possible to have many things in our programme that are useful, and lack the one great essential.

Wide awake advertising, musical talent, gifted preachers, etc., play an important part in the development of an aggressive plan of evangelization.

"If you don't tell it, you can't sell it, and the pastor and church seeking to win the world must get their work before the public. The devil makes plenty of noise and does plenty of talking about his plans and programmes, and we who have something worthwhile to offer the public should seek to catch the attention of the people of the community by whatever means of advertising which seems most effective in our locality.

Good music, vocal and instrumental, has played a vital part in the work of evangelism through the years. The names of Sanky, Alexander and Rodeheaver are quite as significant as those of Moody, Torrey, and Sunday. Many a hardened sinner has been melted to penitential tears through the message of a hymn or Gospel song. In the realm of things spiritual "music hath charms to calm the savage breast." Whether it be in reference to the regular services of the church, or in the special revival effort, we shall do well rightly to evaluate the worth and usefulness of good music, and use it accordingly.

There are men who are divinely appointed to the field of evangelism. Clear and strong the call of God has come to them to go from place to place preaching the good news of salvation and seeking to lead men into saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The church of today is fortunate in having a fine group of gifted, capable men in this field, many of them possessing excellent qualifications for the work to which they have been called. Well grounded in the truth, having fine personal appeal, and being blessed with readiness of speech, these men are well prepared to serve efficiently in the field to which they have been called.

But with due regard to the importance and value of all of which we have spoken, and we are sure that they all have their place in a God-directed evangelism, they leave us still in need. We may engage the best evangelist available (and we should); we may be favoured with having fine musical talent at our disposal,

and know how to use it to advantage; we may bend every effort, and employ every means to bring our meeting to the attention of the people, and see results in the attendance at the services, but we still have a need that is vitally urgent.

Brethren, we need the Holy Ghost! He is the One, and the only One, that can take the human efforts and abilities referred to, and make of them a saving combination. Attendance at our meetings may be good, music and preaching may be of the highest order, but if we lack the presence and mighty workings of the Spirit, results will be disappointing. But when He is come He will convict, save, cleanse and bless. We need Him! How we need Him! Let us tarry "until He comes."

THE MINISTRY OF SORROW

G. D. Watson, D. D.

It is the ministry of sorrow to break down hard natures and melt stubborn wills. There are men who have plenty of mind and capacity to see truth, and sanction righteousness but whose heart-nature seems made of flint. They look upon religion as a cold morality, or a set of businesslike duties, or as a financial and political transaction with God. God takes His time, watches His opportunity, and slowly undermines these tough natures till some day an uneasy feeling comes up from the fountain of their being and creeps all through them. Calamity takes hold upon them. God allows most bitter disappointment to crush some darling hope or plan. Clouds gather: misunderstandings, separations, sharp and sudden turns in the intellectual or financial or social life transpire, health breaks down, or bereavements turn into a walking cemetery. Then sorrow gets in its beautiful work, and fairly laughs behind its mask of tears at the work it will do. As in the late afternoon the shadows of the great rugged mountains stretch themselves across the low valley as if the proud mountain peaks had knelt down to pray on the dewy meadow in the evening hour, while the stars of evening begin to light their lamps as if to make a sanctuary of the spot; so it often happens that sorrow is an afternoon Gospel on many a stubborn soul and gets many a proud heart to bow down in the valley of tears.

Joseph had more sorrow than all the sons of Jacob, and it led him out into a ministry of bread for all nations. For this reason the Holy Spirit said of Joseph that he was "a fruitful bough by a well, whose branches run over the wall" (Gen. 49:22). It was through sorrow his heart grew big enough to run over the Jewish wall and feed the Gentiles with bread; and now Gentile Christians need an experience that will lead them over the church walls to love and feed the Children of Israel. Sorrow is the Mary that breaks the alabaster boxes of our hearts and lives in order that costly perfume may fill the entire house, instead of being pent up. God never uses anybody to a large degree until after He breaks him all to pieces.

Sorrow reveals unknown depths in the soul, and unknown capabilities of experience and service. Gay, trifling people are always shallow, and never suspect the little meannesses in their nature. Sorrow is God's plowshare that turns up and subsoils the depths of the soul that it may yield richer harvests. If the human race had never fallen, or if we were in a glorified state, then the strong torrents of Divine joy would be the normal force to open up all our soul's capacities. Being in a fallen

world, sorrow, with despair taken out of it, is the chosen power to reveal ourselves to ourselves. Hence it is sorrow that makes us think deeply, long, and soberly. Sorrow makes us go slower and more considerately, and introspect our motives and dispositions. It is sorrow that opens up within us the capacities of the Heavenly life, and it is sorrow that makes us willing to launch our capacities on a boundless sea of service for God and our fellows. We may suppose a class of indolent people living at the base of a great mountain range, who had never ventured to explore the mountains and some day, when a great thunderstorm goes careening through the mountains, it turns the hidden glens into echoing trumpets, and reveals the inner recesses of the valley, like the convolutions of a monster shell. Then the dwellers at the foot of the hills are astonished at the labyrinths and unexplored recesses of a region so near by and yet so little known. So it is with many souls who indolently live on the outer edge of their own natures until great thunderstorms of sorrow reveal hidden depths within that were never hitherto suspected.

It is through sorrow the soul learns obedience. Scripture tells us that even Jesus learned "obedience by the things which He suffered." Many have stumbled over this Scripture. Jesus had in Him the principle of perfect obedience from His birth, and He never once disobeyed the Father in thought, word, or act. But that perfect spirit of obedience had to be brought out and unfolded in a thousand various applications and directions, and under all sorts of human limitations and vicissitudes among those who constituted the world's sinful society. Now in the carrying out of His perfect obedience there were circumstances painful and sorrowful, and through suffering He learned the importance, the true value, and the best way of obedience. In a similar way, the true child of God finds out through sorrow the very deepest and most loving obedience. It is sorrow that brings the soul into the Calvary-life of Jesus and sympathy and prayer for others. As the mordant fixes the colors in a dye, so sorrow gives fixedness, perseverance to the spirit of obedience.

But sorrow will pass away. It ministers now in the Heavenly life, but its ministry will pass away when the curse is lifted from the earth and the age of glory succeeds the age of grace. It is in the day when the saints of God shall be gathered at Mount Zion, "with song and everlasting joy upon their heads," that all "sorrow and sighing shall flee away." It is when the Lamb is to gather His redeemed ones in the New Jerusalem and lead them by fountains of living waters, that "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Sorrow is the pathetic moonlight that in the present dispensation ministers to grace, and brings forth some delicate flowers that are not strong enough at first to bear the hot sunlight of supernatural joy.—Triumphs of Faith.

TRY IT—AND BE HAPPY!

A smile, a word, a touch,
And each is easily given.
Yet either may win a soul from sin,
Or smooth the way to Heaven.

A smile may lighten the falling heart,
A word may soften pain's keenest smart,
A touch may lead us from sin apart—
How easily either is given. —Sel.