

## THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —  
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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## EDITORIAL

### SUCCESSFUL OR SLOTHFUL?

The ability to learn lessons from life is one of the elements of true wisdom. Those who desire instruction to edification will find "tongues in trees, sermons in stones, books in the running brooks . . ."

In the scriptures we discover numberless object lessons from nature. Sometimes the object provides a topic for a sermon and at other times the object is the sermon. The grass and lily of the field, the trees of the forest, the fowls of the air, the busy ant, the headstrong mule, the spotted leopard, the cunning fox, speak in a language all can understand, great truths regarding God and godliness.

Solomon heard one of these sermons as he passed by a farmer's field. The field "was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof and the stone wall thereof was broken down." The king paused long enough to view the field thoughtfully and says: "I looked upon it, and received instruction." The tangled growth of weeds and thorns infesting the land preached a sermon to all who passed by—"this is the field of the slothful."

Spiritual sloth is a common disease. It is to be found in all denominations and churches and claims as its victims ministers and laymen alike. The symptoms are the same wherever the infection spreads—prayerlessness, neglect of the Word of God, forsaken family altars, and lack of diligence in Christian service. Repeated confessions of unfaithfulness and plea for forgiveness are followed by a brief period of "land clearing" which seems to promise better things but too soon the labourer becomes weary and the work ceases. Results of spiritual sloth are ever the same—formal prayers and testimonies, a steady decline in church attendance, barren altars and fruitless "revival" campaigns.

We do not need a staff of experts in the field of spiritual service to diagnose the cause of spiritual dirth and decline with many people and many churches. A survey of the day-by-day, month-by-month routine of some of the preachers and the laymen will lead one to the inevitable conclusion: "They're not working at the job." The lack of whole-hearted, sacrificial labour, and the absence of the cross in spiritual service is sufficient explanation for the obvious decline in the life of the individual and church.

Why are some churches closing their doors while others are in a thriving state? Why are

some denominations growing and going while others show little or no increase from year to year? Yes, I know it's so easy to explain one person's success and another's failure, one church's success and another's decline by saying: "They're compromising, playing to the public, depending on programme." This explanation may stand the test in some cases but the writer knows of other situations which demand some other. I'm thinking of a community in Canada where, a few years ago, a small group of people organized a church. To-day that church is enjoying success that borders on the phenomenal for our generation. I have carefully inquired as to the secret, and as near as I can learn the chief cause of growth lies in this—the pastor and the people are working at the job seven days a week and with all their might.

David Livingston's motto: "Fear God, and work hard" may not possess the phonetic or sentimental appeal of some others, but it's a good one for those who want results. There's no royal road to success. "Blood, sweat and tears" are the price demanded, but the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land.

I know of no instance where a church is losing ground where pastor and people are doing all within their power to go forward.

## EDITORIAL GLEANINGS

### THE RIFT IN THE CLOUDS

Yes, the outlook is dismal indeed, but, the uplook has a splendor and a glory that only He Who is soon to come can accomplish. And we have the assurance that the darker the hour, the blacker the day, the surer are the signs of the appearance of Him Who will bring deliverance, peace, joy and millennial glory. God, in speaking to His people Israel, gives forth a heart-touching cry of despair, when He says in Ezek. 22:30, "I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land." And surely never has there been a time in the sad history of this world when there was more need for a man to stand in the gap. But no such man seems to be on the horizon. In vain our political parties are seeking a man. And this age will keep on in its downward career until there shall indeed arise a Man, the Man foretold in Isa. 32:2,

"And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

For that Man and for that Rock our weary world groans desperately. And we who are His, to whom has been given the keeping of the keys, we can afford to wait, because we know that our redemption is close at hand.

—Editor, "The Chosen People."

## THE NEW AGE

The inspired prophets and seers have told us that the earth itself will some day experience a new birth—a regeneration. The curse which sin brought upon the world will be lifted and the vegetable kingdom and the animal kingdom will be restored to creation perfection. Men will dwell in peace and health and harmony, they shall not learn war, and holiness shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. There shall be a new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. We can only faintly imagine the glory and the

splendor and happiness of that Age. Science has already demonstrated the fact, beyond all question, that the earth holds unlimited resources to meet humanites needs, unlimited wealth and unlimited power. The sin and selfishness of the human heart is the only thing that hinders the immediate entrance into an era of peace, enjoyment and plenty beyond all our fairest dreams. There is always pain and agony before a birth. Perhaps the present time of world trouble is the birth pangs of the new age. May God grant that deliverance will soon come.

—Editor, "Canadian Free Methodist."

## OCCUPY TILL I COME

A day of universal triumph is to come in the ongoing of the kingdom of God. The knowledge of the Lord will eventually cover the earth as waters cover the sea. In this connection we are not discussing the method by which this universal triumph is to come but rather the outstanding fact of this triumph on which Christians are universally agreed, though they may differ in their interpretation of the Scriptural method by which this age of universal triumph will be ushered in. Whether we hold to the apocalyptic view of the rapturous return of our Lord in triumph to reign through a glorious millennial age, which is your editor's personal view, or whether we hold to the gradual leavening processes of the gospel to usher in such an age, the fact remains that there is unity of agreement as to a universal age of triumph for the gospel.

We should be encouraged as we lift our eyes to the future. The wise man who wrote the Proverbs in the Bible says: "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee." As we lift our eyes toward the future, they are lifted towards the ultimate triumph of Jesus Christ.

In whatever catastrophe may yet break upon the earth we are to be comforted and encouraged by our faith in the ultimate triumph of Jesus Christ over all kingdoms, principalities, and powers. Our task is to occupy until Jesus comes. We are not to slacken our pace in an attitude of watchful waiting for the return of our Lord. We are to live in expectancy of his return and this expectancy should be manifest in an active endeavor, "in redeeming the time for the days are evil."

—Editor, "Pentecostal Herald."

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

best in our service thus doing the "Will of God" and trust that God shall bless our efforts to the salvation of precious souls.

In closing let me ask you these personal questions, let us carefully note them. Are you doing the "Will of God" as best you know and are able? Have you experienced the "new birth?" Have you been and are you now "advancing?" Have you sought and obtained the experience of "sanctification?" Are you keeping "God's blessing" upon your heart? Are you doing your part in bringing the gospel message to the lost? These questions ought to sober us and cause us to realize our responsibility. Shall we in the first of this New Year determine to do the "Will of God" as best we can by His grace and thus be assured of being useful in His cause and of our having an entrance into His "Everlasting Kingdom."