

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —

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EDITORIAL

REVIVAL TIME

After a busy summer of Camp Meetings, Daily Vacation Bible Schools, Tent Meetings, pastoral changes, etc., many of our churches are looking forward to revival campaigns. During the next six months special meetings will be held in the majority of our churches, some are even now in progress, and the prayer "O Lord, revive thy work" will ascend from many hearts.

Many factors contribute toward genuine revivals. Not one but many. The revival campaign if it is to revive must be preceded by thorough preparation, accompanied by concentrated effort, and followed by diligent pastoral care. The church and community must be prepared if the revival campaign is to be fruitful. The pastor should lead his people in prayer and the ministry of the Word in a time of heart searching previous to the beginning of the special services. It is a pity that all too often most of the time allotted to the revival campaign must be spent in arousing delinquent pastors and dilatory church members. If each would pray "Search ME O God and try MY heart, try ME and know MY thoughts and see if there be any evil way in ME, and lead ME in the way everlasting." "If MY people who are called by MY name will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land." "Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation . . . let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar . . . then will the Lord be jealous for His land and pity His people."

The revival campaign should begin at least a month before the evangelist arrives and should increase in intensity as the time of the special meetings draws near.

Not only the church but the community should be prepared for the special campaign. A Good advertising, house to house visitation, person to person contacts, everything that can serve to bring the meeting to the attention of the people should be used. One only needs to note the failure to publicize the services to discover an explanation for the meager attendance in some revival campaigns. No special announcements are made, no special visitations

by the pastor, and no special efforts by the people. How can a church expect "special" meetings under such circumstances? It is a good investment for the meeting to spend some money on newspaper ads, posters, radio announcements, etc., and certainly every pastor and people should call in the homes and contact the people of the community to stir up interest in the forthcoming campaign. A thorough preparation of the special meetings will contribute largely toward the success of the venture.

A revival campaign which is worthy of the title must have the concentrated support of the church. Special meetings require special effort. The call to special prayer is a familiar and necessary appeal in revival campaigns. Prayer in the home and in the church, prayer by day and night, prayer that insists on victory will be offered only as we concentrate our interests on revival. Our work may be neglected if we can leave some things undone for the time, the way of ease must be forsaken and our strength must be given to prayer. When special meetings for prayer are called those who really want revival will attend, when special prayer effort is requested in the home those who are genuinely interested in the salvation of souls will co-operate.

Our interest in the revival campaign must lead us to regular attendance at the services. Other interests and concerns will be displaced, at least for the time, while the special meetings receive our individual attention. With one theme and one goal the evangelist, the pastor and the people live, work, and pray toward one objective—a revival.

Revivals that are genuine go on and on. When the campaign follows the pattern of large attendance, keen interest and a gratifying response during the special meetings, only to be followed by an immediate return to sparsely attended regular services and no increase in the church, it is probable that the interest of the meeting has been all but totally centered in the evangelist or special workers. But on other occasions revivals that have had definite results "peter out" because of the lack of "follow-up" work. The pastor and church have a great responsibility on their hands after the special campaign is over. New converts must be encouraged, helped, and given a sense of being a part of the church. They need care and prayer during the infant days. When they stumble they need someone to steady them and if they fall they need a strong and kindly hand to help them up. If the new convert is missing from the services he should be sought out at once by a concerned brother in the Lord, pastor or layman. The task of consolidating our spiritual gains is as important and difficult, often more so, than the making of those gains. Keeping the revival going is often a greater task than getting it started.

The God of revivals still lives! Souls are being saved, churches are being built up, waste places are being inhabited, the Spirit is moving. There is victory for us—at a price. The task is before us and the help of God is assured us. We have only to do our part. Lord, send revivals to all our churches!

IN THE DARKNESS

"The thick darkness where God was" (Exod. 20:21).

God has still His hidden secrets, hidden from the wise and prudent. Do not fear them;

be content to accept things that you cannot understand; wait patiently. Presently He will reveal to you the treasures of darkness, the riches of the glory of the mystery. Mystery is only the veil of God's face. Do not be afraid to enter the cloud that is settling down on your life. God is in it. The other side is radiant with His glory. "Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings." When you seem loneliest and most forsaken, God is nigh. He is in the dark cloud. Plunge into the blackness of its darkness without flinching; under the shrouding curtain of His pavilion you will find God awaiting you.—Selected.

THE FALLACY OF MODERATE DRINKING

Drinking in moderation is not the solution of our liquor problem; it is the main cause of that problem. If one drinks at all, he is likely to be caught in the network of social custom until he drinks to excess. Who has not seen in a railway club car a group of men around a table? One man buys a round of whiskies, and then a second man, and a third, and a fourth—each feeling if he accepts a favor he must return it, each having less resistance and less sense as intoxication advances.

The moderate drinker is always a candidate for Alcoholism. Not one of the 750,000 drunkards in our country—many of them men and women of the greatest possibility and promise—started out with the intention of becoming a drunkard. Not one of the 3,000,000 men and women who have come to drink to such excess that their alcohol slavery is a constant menace to their lives and careers started out with the thought of becoming an excessive drinker. These excessive drinkers were recruited from the moderates and may at anytime be added to the army of drunkards. It is a terrible toll for any nation that calls itself civilized. It has no place in a high-energy, air-borne, atomic age.—Dr. Joy Elmer Morgan, in "The Message Magazine."

THINK IT OVER

Thomas Cook of England, a flaming Methodist evangelist of the past century, who very humbly admits that 120,000 souls sought God under his ministry, believed that the preaching of sanctification was the first condition of revival.

"Long ago," he said, "I learned the lesson that if we would convert sinners, we must revive saints. This is not only needful because the converts in a period of revival are almost certain to conform to the type of the average professor, but because the harboring of unkind feelings, the want of charity and forbearance, ill will, the indulgence of prejudices or animosities prevent the outpouring of God's Spirit, without which all our efforts are in vain. The preaching of the doctrine of entire sanctification prepares the way of the Lord by welding His people together in unity and love as no other truth does. Indeed, it is as Wesley said, 'Wherever a work of sanctification breaks out, the work of God prospers'."

—Selected.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28.