

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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EDITORIAL

CALLING THE PASTOR

We are approaching the time of year when our churches hold meetings to call pastors for the next church year. According to our church polity, "the church should hold their meeting at which they call their pastors not later than March 1st." It would be well for churches to observe that these meetings are to be held "not later than March 1st." This does not mean that churches must wait until the last of February to hold meetings for calling pastors. Such meetings are in order at any time after the first of the year. In fact, it would be a distinct advantage, especially to our pastors, if meetings were held soon. When changes are to be made time is an important factor to the pastor. Getting plans settled for the next church year, making arrangements to move, etc., sometimes involve a matter of many weeks. On some occasions pastors have come to Beulah without knowing of their location for the new church year. This situation may be avoided this year if churches hold their meetings early.

It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of careful preparation for these important meetings. It is most unfortunate for a church to make a mistake in the vital matter of calling a pastor and it is equally regrettable for a minister of the gospel to make a wrong decision in respect to calls received. Our personal feelings and preferences and our need of divine wisdom may hinder us from making the decisions which time and experience will approve. The only safeguard against such mistakes is preparation of heart and mind by the divine Spirit.

The prominence of the Holy Spirit in the affairs of the New Testament Church will be recognized by all thoughtful students of the Word. Prayer and fasting often preceded the sending forth of evangelists and pastors, and the Holy Ghost gave direction to the workers. Sometimes men were instructed to take a course they had not planned nor contemplated and at other times they were led to abandon plans for meetings in a certain community or area, being guided of the Spirit to go elsewhere. It is written "they were sent forth by the Holy Ghost," and again, "they were forbidden of the Holy Ghost," and again, "the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers." Divine direction was given and obeyed and as a consequence workers were located where they

could be most useful, according to the knowledge of the Spirit. This is the kind of guidance we need.

No man should feel grieved if a church seems to prefer another above him, nor should any church feel slighted if a minister decides to accept a call to another group instead of theirs. The decision of a church to call a certain person is not necessarily an unfavourable reflection on the man they fail to call; it may simply be action to bring to the Church and community the God-chosen man for the time, while the other man is released to serve in another area where he may serve more effectively. On the other hand, no church has a right to expect a man to accept their call because they ask him to come. The church must reserve to the man called the liberty to decide with prayer and care whether he should go here or there. If the Lord wants the man given the first call to go elsewhere, it must be that He has some other worker whom He has chosen above or before the man of our choice. Sometimes our second choice is God's first. Better for a church to get the man and the man the church that is chosen of God than to have the honour of being first only to bear the pain of disappointment.

In respect to pastoral appointments, this is perhaps the most important year of our denominational history. With the largest number of new workers coming into the field that we have had for many years, with new communities open and opening, and with the great spiritual need everywhere, it is of the utmost importance that preachers and people have the guidance of the Spirit in laying plans for the years of the immediate future.

May grace and light be given for this time of need!

O WORD OF GOD INCARNATE

O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth, unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky,
We praise Thee for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.

The Church from her dear Master
Received the gift divine,
And still that light she lifteth
O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the golden casket
Where gems of truth are stored,
It is the heav'n-drawn picture
Of Christ, the living Word.

It floateth like a banner
Before God's host unfurled,
It shineth like a beacon
Above the darkling world;
It is the chart and compass
That o'er life's surging sea,
'Mid mists and rocks and quicksands,
Still guides, O Christ, to Thee.

Oh, make Thy church, dear Saviour,
A lamp of purest gold,
To bear before the nations
Thy true light as of old;
Oh, teach Thy wand'ring pilgrims
By this their path to trace,
Till, clouds and darkness ended,
They see Thee face to face.

—W. W. How

ENTIRELY TOO BUSY

If we are:

too busy to read a Book that promises to widen our horizons;
too busy to keep our friendships in good repair;
too busy to maintain a consistent devotional life;
too busy to conserve our health in the interest of efficiency;
too busy to keep warm and vital loves of our own fireside glowing;
too busy to cultivate the sense of a personal acquaintanceship with God;
too busy to spend one hour during the week in worship;
too busy to give time to the culture of our own souls;

then we are indeed TOO busy.

—Selected.

SAINTS IN CAESAR'S HOUSEHOLD

(Continued from Page 1)

tered the first century in that midnight of Roman history when its star of hope had fallen? When truth had been crushed to earth? When might made right? There was another Star that began to shine. That light illumined their darkness, conquered their fears, transfigured, sanctified. It was God. They had come into an experience through Christ. It was not simply a truth argued, but a felt truth. They experienced God and talked out of their experience with a ring of reality. And that is our hope. We have to have God.

Something happened under the roof of the upper room. It was not the day, but the dispensation; not the place, but the person. Something happened in the lives of men and women. They got a real vision. They spoke out of divine reality and heart consciousness what they gave to the world and what mastered it. And these saints salute you, chiefly those of Caesar's household.

Whole continents are nearly rotting on the rim of hell. They never had an opportunity to hear of God; whole republics never had a glimpse of God. We should not be satisfied to get blessed a little ourselves. We should not be satisfied until God moves in on our situation and calls on our sons and daughters and never stops until things move. I don't want to be so constituted that the world's condition doesn't affect me. I don't want to be so constituted that whole nations that never had an opportunity don't weigh on me. These conditions should bother us. I want God. I want to help get God to our generation. This generation has missed God, and they are going blindly, and I want a gospel, and a vision, and a truth, and a love, and a power, that I can stay wide awake. I want no blessings for myself, no benefits for myself that I don't help to get for the world. I don't want any easy stops. I want a new sense of God, a new sense of Christ, and a new sense of the vision of the gospel. The saints salute you. Some may be let off if they desire; the rich young ruler so desired. His is called the "great refusal." Do you want to follow the line of least resistance, or do you want God in the Church, in the city, in the nation, in the world? The saints in Caesar's household salute you. We must attach our opportunity to something that will help this poor, broken world.