

## THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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### EDITORIAL

#### WATCH AND PRAY

There are two phrases in the New Testament which are intimately related to each other and vitally significant to Christians of to-day. One is "till He come" and the other "till I come." The first is associated with truth concerning Christian worship, the second with a lesson on Christian service. And the scriptural setting in both cases is coloured with a prophetic tint.

In writing to the Corinthian believers with respect to the sacrament of the Lord's supper, the apostle Paul declared: "As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come."

A careful and thoughtful examination of 1 Corinthians, chapter eleven, will reveal that Paul is writing, not of sacramental obligations, but of spiritual opportunities. In verse two he writes: "I praise you, brethren, that ye . . . keep the ordinances." He then proceeds to warn the believers against the danger of a spirit of contention, division, and self-indulgence creeping in to neutralize the good offices of spiritual fellowship. The concern of the apostle is evidently that the Corinthian Christians faithfully meet for spiritual communion and that they strive to maintain a Christ-centred, Christ-exalting spirit among them. Thus they might "shew forth", or proclaim, to the inspiration of their own souls and the awakening of careless sinners the historical significance of the Lord's humiliation and death and the certainty of His glorious return to redeem the faithful and judge the faithless.

Christians need to be much in the presence of God in these days and churches should strive to maintain regular and spiritual services. It is a pitiful sight to witness the appalling decline of spiritual activity in some churches. Prayer meetings are abandoned or meagerly attended, in some instances Sunday evening services are eliminated, and revival campaigns are a thing of the past. Equally tragic is the prevalence of discord and division in some churches which profess to honour the name of the Lord. In the twilight of salvation's day of opportunity, some professing Christians spend their strength in contending with one another while the satan leads a multitude of souls into a night of endless gloom. God have mercy!

What shall we do in this day of spiritual

decline and church conflicts? Here's the answer: "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Heb. 10:23-25.

Every church which is concerned for the salvation of lost souls should redouble its efforts to maintain services of spiritual fellowship. And all who desire to "proclaim the Lord's death till He come" must recognize the necessity of death to self that Christ may be all and in all. If ever the church needed a vitally spiritual atmosphere she needs it now. We must have the glorious presence of the living Lord in all our services, that weary Christian pilgrims may be cheered and encouraged to continue their heavenward journey, and that sinners may be led to trust in Him who died that they might be forgiven. Only as Christ is One with us in our services can we receive the spiritual good which inspires and enlivens the soul.

"His presence makes the feast,  
And now our bosoms feel  
The glory not to be expressed,  
The joy unspeakable."

Giving His followers a lesson on Christian service, the Lord Jesus used the familiar setting of a man of wealth and authority committing certain of his possessions to his servants and leaving them for a reason with the command: "Occupy till I come." One of our modern versions gives the suggestive translation: "Trade with this till I come back."

The Lord has entrusted each and all of us with certain possessions which, put to use, will increase to the enrichment of the Kingdom. Ability for service with some is great with others it may be small, but always there is some talent to be employed for the glory of God. We are neither requested nor required to use what we do not have, but there is inevitable responsibility concerning what God has given. All He asks is **our all**, but less than our all is not sufficient.

You may be faithful in attending the various services of your church and you may be doing your best to contribute toward the spiritual atmosphere of every meeting in which you are present, but what about your service? Are your tithes and offerings brought in? Are your God-given talents in use as opportunity is provided? Do you tell others of Jesus and exhort them to "seek the Lord while He may be found"?

"A little while, and ye shall see Me" whispers the glorified Lord to a multitude of His own. It won't be long, it may be soon. While He tarries, and "till He come", let us live and labour that we may be accepted of Him when the day breaks and shadows flee away!

#### WE ARE ALL TRUSTEES

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in which all of His children are included. We are all trustees!

#### II

The next thing to be observed in our study of the parable is the demand that Christ imposes. This demand may be simply stated: we must use our talent according to our ability. The emphasis is on the word "use." Our ability may be large or small. Our talents, accordingly, may range from five to one. No matter.

The one thing we must do is to put talents to work. We must trade with them. We must develop them. We must, under God, make the most of them.

I happen to be a preacher. Preaching, I believe, is my talent; that is to say, Christ has made it my calling and commission. In this respect my talent is the same as that of every other Christian minister. But my ability as a preacher is something else. Because my ability is limited God has seen fit to give me, let us say, one talent. But some of my preacher friends, with far greater abilities than I have, are undoubtedly the trustees of five talents in the work of the ministry. Now what Christ demands of them with their five talents is precisely the same as what He demands of me with my one: He requires that all of us put our talents to the best use we can make of them. If I am careless about my studying, irregular in my devotions, slovenly in my appearance, lukewarm in my spirit, half-hearted in my delivery, I shall one day look with shame into the disappointed eyes of my Lord. My ministry failed to grow as it should have. It failed to produce the fruitage that it might have yielded had I been a diligent merchantman for the Master.

Take that personal word, I beg you, and trace it out in application to your own case. Perhaps your talent is that of a lay leader in the administration of church affairs. If you are an officer in the congregation or the Sunday school, your ability may be more limited than that of others, and therefore God may have given you two talents, or even one, in place of five. But the prime question is: What are you doing to make full use of the talent you do have? You may never be elected the chairman of the official board, but are you as faithful to your task as if you were? Your five talents will never become ten unless you give the full measure of diligence and devotion to the stewardship that has been committed to you. You may never be asked to serve on a Board of Benevolence, but you can take a talent for sympathy and kindness which Christ has given you and put it to work. If you have only one to start with, you can cultivate Christ-like kindness until your own talent is two, or, if you start with five, you can increase it to ten. In Colossians 3:12 the Holy Spirit through Paul tells us that as Christians we are to "put on . . . kindness." Take it from the Lord, he seems to say, and wear it as part of your wardrobe. The more you take the more you will have to give away, and the more you give away the more there will be to take.

"Kindness isn't sacrifice

Or giving alms, my lad—  
It's simply sharing happiness

With someone who is sad.

Kindness is a soothing light,

That seeks out darkened hearts,

And makes them flame with new-found hope,

New joy—and then departs.

Kindness is unselfish thought,

Unselfish, friendly deed,

Inspired by the wish to aid

Some brother who's in need.

Kindness is a loving guide

That shows us how to live,

A treasure which, the more we spend,

The more we have to give."

Whatever the direction our talent takes, it should be to advance the cause of Jesus Christ