

# THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —  
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

Published Semi-Monthly at Moncton, N. B.,  
by a Committee of the Alliance.

Editor and Business Manager - Rev. H. S. Dow  
Associate Editor - Rev. W. E. Tokley  
Other members of Committee: Revs. H. C. Mullen,  
W. E. Smith, B. C. Cochrane, E. R. Watson,  
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— SUBSCRIPTION PRICE —

Per year, in advance .....	\$2.00
Ministers, per year .....	1.50
Four months' trial subscription .....	.50
Sample Copy .....	Free
United States Subscribers .....	2.00
Ministers, U. S. A. ....	1.50

SPECIAL NOTICE

All correspondence for The Highway should reach us before the 12th and 25th of each month.

The King's Highway, Box 277, Moncton, N. B.  
Printed by Moncton Publishing Co., Ltd.,  
Printers and Publishers, Moncton, N. B.

MONCTON, N. B., AUGUST 31ST, 1950

## EDITORIAL

### GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY

God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you.

The foregoing are the words of Samuel, who was a prophet of God, and served God faithfully in that office for many years. But when he was old, Israel, to whom he had ministered many years, decided that they wanted a change of pastors: they would have young blood as their leader, perhaps they said this is a young people's age, and we must cater to the young people. Sounds quite modern, eh?

Rehoboam, son of Solomon, who became king of Juda, tried that plan in his day—he forsook the counsel of the old men who advised him to make the people's burden lighter, and he consulted the young men, took their advice and made the people's burdens heavier. They had to raise more money to satisfy the desires of those young fellows. See I. Kings 12. The result was Rehoboam split the kingdom in twain, brought on strife and war between Israel and Juda which was a great calamity to God's ancient people, and final ruin to Israel.

Perhaps that is where we get that old familiar saying, which is very good: "Old men for counsel, young men for war."

But now to return to Samuel again. He was a great soul and his greatness was demonstrated where every man's is, viz., in his attitude toward his enemies. He said to the people who had rejected him, and wanted to have a king to rule over them, and thus be like the nations round about them. (Oh! this subtle desire in some so-called holiness churches that want to be like the popular ones, that often puts financial burdens on poor christians).

But Samuel said in the words of our text: God forbid that I should sin against the Lord, in ceasing to pray for you. I will continue to teach you the good and right way.

Samuel was practising what our Lord Jesus taught, and commanded many centuries later, namely, to love our enemies. Mat. 5. It takes a great soul to do that. Most people and many of them professing christians, will speak evil of, talk gossip, and slander those whom they do not like, not because they are enemies, but just because they do not like them. Such are little souls, and need salvation to make them real christians.

Our Lord said if you love them which love

you, what reward have ye, do not even the publicans the same. Yes, it will take the regenerating and sanctifying grace of God to give most people a spirit like Samuel manifested. Note he did not say, I will do you no harm, but I will have nothing more to do with you, like some professing christians would have said. He knew that God required more than that of His people. But, said He, I will continue to pray for you, and do you good, "teach you the good and right way" lest I sin against God. Hence, he went the second mile as taught by Jesus.

Are you Guilty or not Guilty?

### THE PRAYER MEETING FOR SAM JONES

Sam Jones was one of the greatest preachers of his day. He was a very ordinary circuit-riding Methodist preacher until God showed him one day, through the preaching of another, that a preacher is not a vassal, not a slave, but a "king, and his throne is the pulpit." After that he was a changed man. He preached hard against sin, calling it by name whether it was dancing, drinking, gambling or something else and whether in or out of the churches. Undoubtedly he was one of the most fearless, sin-fighting evangelists America has ever produced.

In reading his sermons I am impressed by the fact that he would not only fearlessly denounce some particular sin in a sermon but would then ask those who confessed they were guilty of the sin he was preaching about to come forward to confess and forsake this sin. Evidently he preached the truth in love and in the power of the Holy Spirit for thousands responded to his invitations to turn from sin to the Saviour, and many backsliders were restored.

Pastors, however, were sometimes offended with the evangelist. He made absolutely nothing of education, would not tolerate stiffness or formality but was definitely informal both in and out of the pulpit, was blunt and almost uncouth in his preaching, direct and childlike in his praying and somewhat sensational in his methods. Highly educated and very dignified ministers were especially prone to feel Mr. Jones definitely lacked tact and finesse.

It was the late Dr. Will Houghton who told me of the prayer meeting conducted by a group of pastors for Brother Sam. He was conducting a city-wide revival campaign where great crowds were attending and many of the unsaved were turning to Christ. But there was wide-spread dissatisfaction on the part of many of the co-operating pastors. They felt the evangelist ought not to preach "negative" sermons—sermons against sin—but ought to preach more on love. And they felt he ought to be more dignified, use more tact, etc. So the pastors secretly agreed to meet one afternoon to pray for their evangelist.

Quite by chance Sam Jones came in about the middle of the prayer meeting. He had been out calling, and happening to drive by the tabernacle, was overjoyed to find a group of ministers conducting a prayer meeting. Of course he went in and quietly slipped to his knees in their midst. It didn't take long for him to discover he was the object of their prayers! "O Lord, help Brother Jones to use more tact," prayed one man. "Help him to be more dignified in the pulpit," prayed another. "Change his mannerisms," besought another. "Give him more respect for the clergy," asked another. Every man who prayed asked that

Sam Jones' ministry be changed. "Take away this and give him that" seemed to be the theme.

It was not until the last one had prayed that they knew of Jones' presence. That was when he began to pray, "Lord, I hope you won't listen to a one of these preachers. They don't preach against sin, they don't visit from door to door, they don't weep over sinners and they don't win souls. And they want You to change me until I'm just like them! O Lord, help these preachers to have enough sense to realize that if You were to answer their prayers I would be just as worthless and no-account as they are! I'd be too lazy to work too! I'd be afraid to fight sin and too cold to cry over sinners and too indifferent to win souls! Please, God, don't make me like any of these fellers!"

A group of very sheepish and subdued preachers listened as the evangelist went on to pray for a great sweeping revival there, a prayer that God answered.

Sam Jones was indeed a king, and the pulpit was his throne.—The Sword of the Lord.

### "UNLESS THE SPIRIT"

(Continued from Page 1)

these and many more dared to make the glorious venture where "all is vain unless the Spirit" comes to one's aid. If it had not worked they would have been laughingstocks to all subsequent generations. But it worked!

Today we are afraid to prove God. We borrow the world's program and pep and propaganda and paraphernalia and personnel. But from the world we cannot borrow power, the power that works the works of God. Our efficiency turns out to be deficiency unless we have His sufficiency. We have a name to be alive as did Sardis, but we merely double our activities to hide our weakness. "It is not conquering energy conscious of its power, but feverish energy conscious of its powerlessness." We have developed in our Christian work go-getter salesman types who "goes" more than he "gets," hunched over tables in cafeterias "making contacts" instead of on his knees talking to God.

There are others who sense their lack of power and set about in divers ways to improve matters. They introduce this innovation, dispense with that—a mere shuffling of arrangements. But the church is as powerless before demons as ever. Rules upon rules are invented, but the sorriest hotel usually has most regulations posted and the same holds with churches.

What to do? I suggest no rules and "steps." There are books of them already in circulation. Until we are really convinced of our need, humble enough to acknowledge it and desperate enough to lay hold upon God, we shall continue like Gehazi to go through all the motions in vain. And when we are so convicted and humble and desperate, we will get through to God. The best way to learn how to pray is to pray and the man who really hungers and thirsts for God will need no "steps" to satisfy his soul.

We have heard of a spring whose waters had medicinal properties. A town grew up around and, in later years, amidst all the buildings and streets and rushing business, no one could locate the spring. We have so much today in organized Christianity but we have lost the spring. "All is vain unless the Spirit . . ." Let us pray as we ought and "Holy manna will be showered all around."

—Vance Havner in Christian Digest