

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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EDITORIAL

THANKSGIVING

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High: To show forth Thy loving kindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night. *Psa. 92.*

Our governor has asked us to observe one day in the year as Thanksgiving Day, which is well, but, the inspired Psalmist would have us give thanks unto God daily; both morning and evening to show forth His loving kindness and faithfulness, and to sing praises unto the name of the Most High.

Our government would have us give thanks from a sense of duty. We owe our God thanks for a bountiful harvest, and many other creature comforts: But the psalm writer says, it is a good thing to do, not only because it is our duty, but practising giving thanks creates a spirit of gratitude in our own hearts which is good for us: for in a grateful heart the mercies and blessings of God are magnified while the trials which are common to all men seem smaller.

The Psalmist also intimates that God had done a special work of grace in his heart. He says, Thou hast made me glad through thy work. I will triumph in the works of thy hands. These remind us of the words of Paul who wrote: "Thanks be unto God which always causeth us to triumph."

So a grateful heart is a victorious heart. As the poet has said,

"A faith that will not murmur nor complain,
Beneath the chastening rod;
But in the hour of grief and pain,
Will lean upon its God."

Me thinks it takes the sanctifying grace of God to produce an experience like this, in the hearts of men. When the spirit of grumbling, complaining, and faultfinding ceases, and is replaced by a spirit of gratitude, where we give thanks always for all things unto God the Father. *Eph. 5:20.*

"God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work. *II Cor. 9:8.*

We would take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** to many of our subscribers who have responded to our appeals for renewals, we appreciate your help very much. There are still many more who are in arrears whom we have not heard from. Beloved please

let us hear from you right away. Thank you. God bless you all.—H. S. D.

SLANDER... A DANGEROUS WEAPON

No Christian worker can take up the sword of slander and escape the consequences. "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword," (*Matt. 26:52*). So spake Jesus, and history has repeatedly borne testimony to the truthfulness of His warning. Men who have slandered others have either been ruined by slander themselves or have been judged by God with death.

And it makes no difference whatever, be it borne in mind, whether the report is true or false—the result is the same. Judgment is God's prerogative, not man's. His word is "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm." The statements made may be absolutely true, but since no mere man is capable of judging, God's servants are accountable to Him and to Him alone. And woe betide the man who dares to set himself up as a judge and publicly slanders his fellow workers! God will not let it pass.

I could tell of more than one guilty of the awful sin of slander who has been judged by death, and in some cases, sudden death. For "they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Drastic measures may be used. "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth," "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ"; "Let us not therefore judge one another any more." God help us to hearken. "Let us not therefore judge one another any more." Oh, that we might make that our life resolution! In the face of the words of our Lord how can we do otherwise? For the things of which we accuse others, in all probability, we ourselves are guilty of and more so, though we know it not.

"Judge not that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

Remember this, my friend: he who slanders is working with the devil. Satan is a slanderer. He is continually accusing us before God. That is his biggest job and his most destructive work. Oh, my brother, are you going to do the devil's work? Are you letting him use you as one of his slanderers? God help you! What carnality! Oh, what a tragedy! God's child but the devil's agent. God's servant working for the devil. A slanderer, an accuser in the pay of the enemy. What a disgraceful state of affairs! Once more I warn you: "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

"I would rather play with the forked lightning," said Dr. A. B. Simpson, "or take in my hands living wires, with their fiery currents, than speak a reckless word against any servant of Christ, or idly repeat the slanderous darts which thousands of Christians are hurling on others, to the hurt of their own souls and bodies.

"You may often wonder, perhaps, why your sickness is not healed, your spirit filled with joy of the Holy Spirit, or your life blessed and

prosperous. It may be that some dart which you have flung with angry voice, or in an idle hour of thoughtless gossip, is pursuing you on its way, as it describes the circle which always brings back to the source from which it came every shaft of bitterness, and every idle and evil word.

"Let us remember that when we persecute or hurt the child of God, we are but persecuting Him and hurting ourselves far more."

"The tongue," quotes another, "is an unruly member that no man can tame. It is set on fire of hell—it is an unholy evil, full of deadly poison." Truer words were never written. The whole course of human history and individual experience has proved this true. One of the greatest evils that afflicts the world today is that of gossiping and talebearing. You find it everywhere you go. It is rife in the business world, in office and in factory; its evil influence has permeated every stratum of society, from the palace to the slum, and it rears its ugly head in the Church, as many Christians have known from painful experience.

"The tongue of the gossip has destroyed empires and has cast down many mighty men, sundered friendships, ruined lives, blighted homes, and broken hearts have been caused by the talebearer and through the chatter of the idle tongues. Coleridge sings in a sad but truthful refrain:

'Alas, they have been friends in youth,
But whispering tongues can poison truth.'

"Yes, the Apostle knew whereof he spoke when he characterized the idle tongue that retails gossip and second-hand stories as being set on fire of hell. My brethren, these things should not be. Were it possible to see the terrible effects on some lives of the retailing of a piece of gossip, most Christian people, we believe, would rather cut out their tongues than give utterance to 'detraction's idle tale.'

"Too late sometimes people learn what harm has been wrought by giving too ready an ear to rumor and too ready a tongue to pass it on. 'Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!' the Apostle also wrote. Regarding the tongue, Jean Blewett in her own expressive way, writes:

"The man who with the breath lent him by Heaven

Speaks words that soil the witness of a life
Is but a murderer, for death is given

Assuredly by the tongue as by the knife."

"Nothing is more needed in this world today than the manifestation of the Spirit of Christ, that will scorn to speak evil of another when no good purpose can possibly be accomplished. The flower of Christian character will never bloom in an atmosphere of slander and detraction."

Brethren, where are we heading? What is to be the outcome of it all? Fifty years from now our work will all be done; for many of us, much sooner. The future life will then be ours. What will it mean, I wonder, as we stand together at the judgment seat of Christ? How ashamed some of us will be! Will we not be sorry we did not leave the judging of one another to the appointed day? For many whom we condemned on earth will be lauded, and many whom we approved on earth will be condemned then.

God help us to live, think, act, and speak in the light of eternity! Then, instead of getting our eyes on man and judging him, watching for either his virtues or his faults, we will keep our eyes fixed on the Christ who indwells him, and see no man save Jesus only.

—Oswald J. Smith.