

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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EDITORIAL

THE LAW OF REPRODUCTION

Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit. John 12:24. Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit, and so shall ye be My disciples. John 15:8.

Nature's law of reproduction, is a very old one, men have cooperated with it from the beginning and have gotten good results. This law was established by the Creator, when he said let everything that He had made, bring forth after its kind and replenish the earth. This law also has a spiritual application: When our Lord told His disciples that He must go up to Jerusalem and suffer many things and be put to death. They objected, and said, be it far from thee Lord to suffer such things, for they knew that He did not deserve any such treatment. And Jesus replied by referring them to the natural law, expressed in the words of our text, which illustrates the spiritual law by which God's plan of redemption operates and is perpetuated. The work of reproduction must be preceded by death; the seed must fall into the ground and die.

First, Jesus must die, in order to make salvation possible to all mankind. We only have redemption through His blood. Heb. 9:12. We are not saved by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He hath saved us. Neither are we redeemed by corruptible things as silver and gold, but with the precious Blood of Christ. Peter.

Our Lord is not referring to His own death only, in the foregoing words, but is endeavouring to teach His disciples, and us, that the same spirit of sacrifice and suffering, that formed the basis of the plan of redemption must continue, and be prominent in the lives and work of those who would come after Him, and would be instrumental in saving lost men. Hence, He continued with the following:

"He that loveth his life shall lose it, and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." Also if any man come after Me let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me. Mat. 16:24.

We don't like to suffer, it is not natural for human nature to enjoy suffering; but in the work of the promotion of the gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the lost, men have many times found it necessary to undergo great suffering, even to the sacrifice of their lives.

Paul wrote to the Philippians, that he wanted to know the fellowship of Christ's sufferings, and be made conformable unto his death.

We sometimes fear, that the spirit of sacrifice which has characterized the great revivals of past years, has largely faded from religious circles today. We read that in those days many fasted and prayed day and night until God came in great power, and saved many. Now, men seem to have a way of popularizing the preaching, and work of the gospel. There is not much preaching of the Cross in it, not much heard about repentance, and restitution. Jesus said, except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish. Not much heard about coming out from the world, and being separate: or confessing and forsaking sin. These would be unpopular subjects, but the inspired Word requires these things in order to be saved. It seems that about all that is required now in religious movements is—Just come and accept Christ, and join the church.

Furthermore, it seems that very much of this popular move among young people, called "Youth for Christ" is just so much good clean entertainment; not much in it that makes them new creatures, when old things pass away. Gal. 6-5, that changes the hearts and lives, customs and manners of dress, etc. They have their meetings with a program which does not require much in the way of real Christian experience. Just a nice little entertainment without the old fashion? prayers, and testimonies, and shouting the praises of God.

And all this, easy going, popular work in religious circles, seems to be producing, not "fruit unto holiness" to glorify God, but a mere shallow profession of religion; a sort of spiritual anemia, with no prayer-warriors and very few outstanding witnesses for Jesus.

The corn of wheat must fall into the ground and die, in order to produce witnesses to holiness, or full salvation, that bring forth fruit in the salvation of souls. This law of dying, or of suffering to reproduce, seems to run through every phase of our lives. Every beautiful little child you see represents suffering and perhaps death on the part of some mother in order to give it life and being.

Dr. Jowett says, that every real lift implies a corresponding strain. Wherever the crooked is made straight, virtue must go out of the erect. We must bleed to bless. Were there no Calvary, there would be no heaven for us. Burdenless, passionless souls bless nobody. God would spue the Laodicean church out of His mouth, not because they were so wicked, but just lukewarm, easy-going, burdenless, like so many churches of today. Jesus' enemies told the truth about Him when they said, He saved others, himself He cannot save. That is also true with every follower of Jesus, who would be instrumental in saving his fellow-man. The apostle Paul claimed that death when he said, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live." "If we suffer with Him we shall also reign with Him." All that will live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution," II Tim. 2. Let us pray.—H. S. D.

GROWING CHRISTIANS . . .

By the Editor

Holiness, or entire sanctification, as a second work of grace, renovates, purifies, and infills the consecrated human heart, thus rendering the motives of one's whole life holy, pure, and

perfect. However, this experience is not calculated to automatically shift the believer instantly into a mature and full-statured Christian. We would not minimize the work of entire sanctification by any means, for, indeed, it does all that it is scripturally designed to do, as described above. Furthermore, its work is perfect, thorough, and instantaneous.

Let us notice, however, that Peter's final admonition was: "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," (II Pet. 3:18). Then, St. Paul declares that God has provided preachers and teachers "for the perfecting of the saints . . . till we all come . . . unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ," (Eph. 4:12-13). For example: an infant might be born with a hereditary heart disease. A surgical operation is performed, and the child is rendered physically perfect. No signs of the dreaded heart disease can be found, for the infant is made whole, and is freed from the malady. Now, who would be so foolish as to declare that the surgeon had not performed a perfect operation because that, in the process of surgery, the child was not transformed into a full-grown man!

Is the infant, merely because he is weak and dependent, to any lesser degree a human being? No; to grow to the stature of a giant would make him no more certainly a perfect member of the human family. I grant you that the little "tyke" in his first weeks does not have much hair, nor does he possess a tooth; but give him time, and he will have both, for he has what it takes to produce them. He is a perfect child, and he will become a perfect man.

So it is with the babe in Christ. Through the operation of the Holy Spirit, the carnal heart malady which is naturally inherited from carnal foreparents, may be cured completely, thus making the heart perfect in love, and rendering the individual a perfect babe in Christ; but please note that, although perfect, he is still but a babe, and not a mature Christian of full stature. Be it known, there is a vast difference between purity and maturity. Purity is obtained by an instantaneous work of grace, but maturity is achieved by a constant growth in grace. Let no man think that he can obtain purity by a growing process; but no more can one hope to suddenly burst forth into Christian maturity!

Now, one may ask: "What is the process by which holy Christians gain stature and grow into strong spiritual manhood?" The answer is simple. The primary means of growth spiritually are the same as those of growth physically: proper food, and vigorous exercise. The Word of God is our meat and drink; Christian service and prayer afford ample exercise. Brethren, are we making proper growth?—The Church Herald.

SAD AND PLEASANT MEMORIES . . .

By Walter E. Isenhour

Let us read for our Scripture lesson Psalm 137:

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

"We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.

"For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.

"How shall we sing the Lord's song in a