

# The King's Highway

Moses D Hillman, Jan. 54

## An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

VOL. XXXVIII.

MONCTON, N. B., DECEMBER 31ST, 1954

No. 355

### "In The Beginning"

By F. A. Dunlop

"In the beginning"—a statement found in the Scriptures usually marking the commencement of some great event "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). Then the statement is used in an accommodatory sense—"In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1). Since our finite minds are incapable of thinking in terms of eternity, the inspired apostle simply states that as far back as we are capable of going in thought, Jesus, the Word, was.

Beginnings are always interesting and important. Anything we humans do, the Scriptures lay much stress on the necessity of wise beginnings. "Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, see, saith He, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the Mount." Jesus warns against neglecting foundations in the act of building, or being in a hurry about undertaking any project without first "sitting down and counting the cost." Farmers and stock-men, financiers and statesmen, agree in this: Beginnings are important.

According to the calendar we use, we are at the end of one year and the beginning of another. Psychologically, this effects us not a little. It would be difficult to find a person who does not entertain thoughts of having closed out a certain section of his life with the passing of the year, and the opening up of a new, when he steps on the threshold of the in-coming year. Personally, this breaking up of time does something to me akin to stock-taking in the business world. As a steward of the "manifold grace of God" how have I managed the business of life? Wherein could I have applied myself more diligently to the principles of godliness? How might I have escaped those experiences in the past year that register a deficit in love and understanding? What am I bringing to the New Year that with God's grace, helps to greater spiritual achievements than any previous year? These questions arise, and one feels that they are worthy of careful consideration. The stimulus of the New Year puts one in a helpful state of mind in which to face these questions. The past, even the failures of the past, are not a total loss. Failures can preach sermons quite as effectually as successes. Paul speaks of "afterward benefits" arising out of our chas-

tenings, and the New Year is a good time to determine that the same chastenings will not be necessary again.

Then, under the stimulus of the New Year, one is disposed to a program of improvement. The practices that paid well during Nineteen Fifty-Four are fully as promising for Nineteen Fifty-Five. And who, as a Christian, has not derived benefits from prayer, a careful study of the Scriptures, loyalties to the Church and its various programs? These things that yield rich dividends are ours for the year ahead, if we will diligently apply ourselves.

There are some things regarding our Denomination that we should give special attention to at this time. Practical things, such as: bringing our Highway subscription up to date. If we are not renewed to '55, we should renew immediately, that our prayers be not hindered. Then, what about our tithing? Dare we begin the New Year, as Christians, neglecting this matter? Our budgets would look differently than they do, if our members would deal honestly with God in the tithe. The New Year is an appropriate time for catching up in our delinquencies, and for bringing ourselves in allignment with those cardinal virtues that make the difference between success and failure in Christian living.

Many of us could make Nineteen Fifty-Five the beginning of a "back to God" movement, that would mark this year as the outstanding year of our life thus far. There are some who will read these lines that have had blessed fellowship with God in other years that know not that blessedness today. This year should come to you with a mighty challenge. Lost fellowship can be restored; vices can be forgiven and squandered virtues can be recovered. Mis-directed talents can be rededicated to God, and it can be recorded in truth: In the beginning of Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Five, I felt anew, the strength of a Saviour's hand, and the love of a Saviour's heart. Important? Nothing on earth is so important, and nothing on earth is more possible.

### HEART'S DESIRE

Lord, let a fire be kindled in my soul  
And let it burn—this be my deep desire—  
Till all I have within my heart may be  
Refined as silver by the sacred fire.

And let all dross be wholly burned away—  
All pride—all self—all wilful doubt and fear,  
Till the Refiner, looking at His own  
May see but purest silver, clean and clear.

See but pure silver, clean and clear? Ah, no—  
'Tis not enough; this be my earnest prayer:  
As He beholds its deeper depths, O may  
His blessed image be reflected there!

—Fannie G. McCann

### Disappointing Christians

By Paul L. Moore

Life is beset with disappointments—some are momentary, others are more lasting. A business transaction fails. Discord arises within the home. A love truce is broken. A child becomes wayward. Our life plans are disrupted. Such disappointments are significant, seriously affecting the entire course of our lives.

Others, not nearly so serious but equally significant, demonstrate the emptiness and bitterness of disappointment. Luke warm water on a warm day and our thirst is unquenched. A colorful plum, firm and ripe but sour. A huge, red apple, but it's waxy, decorative and artificial—and we hunger on. A book clothed in an attractive jacket with an intriguing title, but with pages wearing cheap, tasteless words—and our hunger for knowledge is unsatisfied.

Jesus was conscious of disappointments. The fig tree with leaves but no fruit. The rich young ruler who went away sorrowful. Expressing His disappointment on one occasion while looking upon the sprawling city, Jesus cried with compassion: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, . . . how often would I have gathered thy children together, . . . and ye would not" (Luke 13:34.)

Jesus spoke of similar disappointments in His teachings: the salt that had lost its saltiness and savour, the candle hid under the bushel; the slothful servant who concealed his one talent in the earth. Nothing is more tragic than a disappointing Christian—a fruitless Christian, a Christian without vital spirituality; a Christian failing to glorify God with his witness. These are disappointments.

Jesus faced disappointments in His followers. Ascending the steps to the Upper Room, Jesus discovered the twelve squabbling as to who should occupy the preferred seat of honor beside the Master. With a broken heart Jesus revealed that one of them would betray Him, one of them deny Him, and the others would flee. Emerging from the solitude and anguish of the garden, Jesus stumbled upon the three sleeping disciples and in dismay asked: "What, could ye not watch with me one hour?" (Matt. 26:40).

Are you a disappointing Christian? Have you been a disappointment to that fellow Christian who looked to you for an example? To that bewildered one who was counting on you for guidance? To that companion who was depending on you for understanding and light?

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## New Year Greetings To Our Readers