

# The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

YARMOUTH,  
NOVA SCOTIA,  
Box 1100  
Lawrence Millin, Nov. 54

VOL. XXXVIII

MONCTON, N. B., APRIL 15TH, 1954

No. 340

## Consider Him

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"For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Heb. 12:3.

The writer to the Hebrews is pointing to the Christian pilgrim's path, to be run "with patience," looking unto Jesus, Who, "for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

We are to set our course by that pattern. If on the way we have any hardness, what is that beside His cross which He endured? If we feel that we know any shame, what is that beside the example of the glorious and strong Son of God Who "despised" the shame—thought nothing of it.

If we at times cannot see our way, nor feel too sure about the final goal, there He is before us, "set down at the right hand of the throne of God"—He Who most lovingly told His disciples that He was going on ahead to prepare a place for us that where He is there we may be also.

And if we still falter and are afraid, we are to consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself.

The gentle injunction is seen to be necessary when we recollect how far we travel without much thought of Him. Some of us go through our religious exercises day after day, without pausing to peer into the terrible majesty of the prospect before us.

But Easter causes us to think. The invitation: "Oh, come and look awhile on Him, Whom we have pierced, Who for us died," is one which we must heed at Eastertide.

Considering Him, we learn how to conquer, for He "reviled not again." It would have been easy for Him to have scourged that vulgar, evil crowd with eloquent and searching tongue. But mastery was unshaken in the hour of greatest humiliation. His tongue was silent. Vision of their pitiable blindness pierced their offensive exterior. He saw them as they were, sheep without a Shepherd, and in that moment of extreme provocation He was willing to die for them. Let us consider Him!

We have read much, and some of us have seen much of man's cruelty to man during the past years. Prisoners of war are coming home with their stories of heaped-up degradations imposed upon them and their comrades. They can enter into the depths of the story of the Lord of Life, when He was bound by careless, ribald soldiers who broke the monotony by making cruel jibes at their silent prisoner. They will know better than we, who

have only read of this generation's sufferings, what superb strength Jesus had to let those soldiers do it. With a word He could have altered everything, but love has strength beyond anything we can imagine.

Look upon Him, not thrust into His agony but willingly seeking it, driven only by the compulsion of love.

Consider Him, by His obedience becoming our Saviour.

The writer to the Hebrews knew how prone we are to look at ourselves and so lose heart. His advice was that we "fix our eyes upon Jesus" and thus keep ourselves from fainting and falling.

We cannot do this carelessly, flippantly, or half-heartedly. We cannot consider Him without shedding the superficial self which we so often offer as our defense to the world.

The eyes which meet us from the Cross demand our utter sincerity. Their love is strong, not sentimental. It searches rather than caresses. It burns to heal. Let us come close to the Cross with penitence and with joy, for He has conquered by love that we might learn how to love.

Consider Him in victory! Some of us are impotent in the presence of satanic opposition. Even indifference and apathy silence our witness. Our weak hearts grow faint until we are strengthened by the power of our Saviour's triumph.

As we look upon Him "from the fight returned victorious," we are reminded that His triumph over the bonds of death was possible only through His willingness to die to self.

Many who could be mighty in God and the overthrow of evil do not count in the never-ceasing conflict because they turn aside from the way of victory, which is by the death of the Cross. While this is vital to our own spiritual well-being, it is more important to the Kingdom of Christ. His glorious purposes can only be achieved through the willing surrender of His people to the work to which He calls us.

The sinful and God-forgetting are to know of His redeeming love through those who have shared the sufferings of the Cross. We cannot be spectators in this matter. As we consider Him we must enter with Him into the new life which He gives.

Let us, therefore, draw near, and give, as He gave His all, that we might share His Cross, His Kingdom, and His glorious, triumphant victory!—War Cry.

The daily life should be sanctified by doing common things in a religious way. There is no action so slight or humble but it may be done for a great purpose and ennobled thereby.—George McDonald.

## The Easter Message

By Samuel M. Zwemer, D. D.

What is Easter all about? Why do men and women crowd the church doors so long neglected?

Here is the answer: Easter celebrates the fact that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He is alive for evermore. HE IS OUR CONTEMPORARY.

The fact of Christ's Resurrection is the very center and pivot of New Testament Christianity. In the fifteenth chapter of the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians we find the Bible's great logical argument for the bodily resurrection of our Lord and for the resurrection at the last day. It is an answer to the agnostics of Paul's day and of ours when they ask, "How are the dead raised up?" It is the Hallelujah Chorus of the apostle—and his triumphant boast as believer and missionary. It is a page torn from his spiritual diary, wet with tears and yet full of joy unspeakable. And it is the promise of our own resurrection—that there is life for us beyond the gates of death.

The Garden Tomb was sealed once, never to be sealed again. Christ lives forever in resurrection glory and could, therefore, say before He ascended: "All power is given unto me . . . Go ye, therefore . . . Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

The Resurrection gave the Church its Great Commission, and all those who have obeyed Christ's command have realized His promise and presence. His power was made perfect in human weakness. That is the story of Paul's life and of his successors down the centuries—Carey, Livingstone, Martyn, Hudson Taylor and all the others.

It is significant that to Paul the thought of the Resurrection immediately suggests power. The Greek word for power is allied to our "dynamic"; it is not atomic energy but spiritual effectiveness, spiritual release of God's power.

Because Jesus Christ was the Son of God, "it was not possible that he should be holden of death."<sup>2</sup> He burst its bonds and by His life released such omnipotence for the Church that the gates of Hades can never prevail against her. The power of His Resurrection began at Pentecost and has continued for these nineteen centuries around the world. In the daily experience of every believer we see release of that same Resurrection power. Moment by moment Christians are kept by Christ's love.

The glorious company of the apostles and the noble army of martyrs, from the days of Stephen to our own day of martyrdom for

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