

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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Christ's Resurrection And Ours

By H. S. Dow

"If ye then be risen with Christ seek those things which are above" (Col. 3:1). The apostle Paul, in his writings, claims that we, as God's people, have much in common with Christ. He speaks of being "dead with Christ," "crucified with Christ," "alive with Christ," "hid with Christ," and, in the words of our text, "risen with Christ."

His resurrection, which all Christendom celebrates, is the greatest fact of history, so much depended upon it. His birth, death, and ascension were great facts of mighty importance, but the great scheme of redemption never could have been accomplished without His resurrection. Previous to the coming of Jesus others had come forward, professing to be Christ, or some great leader, and many had followed them until the Roman authorities arrested them and put them to death. Jesus, then, being put to death for his religion was not a new thing, and doubtless a host of people saw him crucified, as it was the time of the passover feast. But He rose again! That is what no other man ever did. He said He would rise again; hence, He made good His claim and proved to the world that He was the Son of God. If he had not risen the gospel never would have been preached, and there would have been no salvation for any man. Hell would have been the portion for all mankind. How terrible to think of! But, thanks be to God, "He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes". He ascended up on high, at the right hand of God, to make intercession for us. When the women came to the tomb looking for His body, and found the tomb empty, they were very much disappointed and very sad. I am very glad indeed that they were disappointed. How exceedingly sad and wretched it would have been for all mankind if the women had not been disappointed. Their disappointment was God's appointment.

Note the Apostle's exhortation, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above." It is very natural for us, who have been raised from a life of sin, to seek things above. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." It goes without saying, if we are not seeking things above, we have not been raised from sin to righteousness. We must seek things above or backslide and be lost. We must seek things above if we would grow in grace. The things, we seek regulate our actions, mould our characters, and determine our destiny. This is why truly regenerated souls seek holiness, Gods sancti-

fyng grace—the things above.

"Heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward through the night." Most of us are too easily satisfied with our present attainments in grace, because we are not seeking things above, which is holiness.

The gospel story of salvation is not finished without the Resurrection. The Apostle often repeated it. The Resurrection was the basis of his preaching, and the proof of our resurrection and eternal life. "If Christ be not raised your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins, and they that sleep in Christ are perished" (I Cor. 15:17, 18).

Perhaps our readers have heard the very touching story of the little boy, looking in the window of a picture gallery at a picture of Jesus on the cross. A man came along, saw what the lad was looking at, and asked him if he knew what the picture meant. The boy replied that it was Jesus, the good man, who tried to make other men good, and wicked men took him and crucified him. The man told the boy he was right, and went on his way. After he had gone some distance he heard the boy coming, running, and shouting for the man to stop. As the man stopped and listened, the lad called with all his might, "He rose again, sir. He rose again." He wanted to finish the story.

"Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:57).

TO BE PRAYERLESS IS TO BE POWERLESS

Prayer is the pulse of life. By the pulse we can tell what is the condition of the heart. The sin of prayerlessness is a proof for the ordinary Christian or minister, that the life of God in the soul is in deadly sickness and weakness . . . What is the reason why many thousands of Christian workers in the world have not a greater influence? Nothing save this—the prayerlessness of their service.

In the midst of all their zeal in the study and in the work of the church, of all their faithfulness in preaching and conversation with the people, they lack that ceaseless prayer which has attached to it the sure promise of the Spirit, and the power from on high. It is nothing but the sin of prayerlessness which is the cause of the lack of a powerful spiritual life!—Andrew Murray.

The devil is content that we should excel in good works, provided he can make us proud of them.—William Law.

MARKS OF SPIRITUAL SICKNESS

By Oliver G. Wilson

It is highly important that the spiritual life be maintained at a level of robust health. Anything that lessens the spiritual vigor should be avoided, and any symptom of spiritual weakness should be examined carefully.

There are three marks of spiritual sickness that should cause alarm and an immediate trip to the Physician of souls for help. The first symptom of spiritual sickness is—

When prayer time is given over for increased activity. This shows a wrong perspective. It places works above devotion, and indicates that the world is to be won by what we do rather than by the power of the Holy Spirit working through us.

The Scriptural formula for the increase of spiritual strength is: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." And the song writer stressed this point when he wrote that great hymn, "Take Time to be Holy." One of Satan's prime moves is to get God's people so busy with legitimate things that they have no time for spiritual communion. When this finds place in the life, the soul is sick and will be unable to render effective service in any field of activity. He should cease all activities until selfish ambition is consumed by love. A second symptom of spiritual sickness is—

When an uneasiness is felt when spiritual things are discussed. It is indeed significant when a person can eloquently discuss politics, finance, educational methods, the field of literature, but let the conversation turn on man's eternal interests, on salvation through Christ's atoning work and the individual is plainly embarrassed, ill at ease, and has little to say.

The soul has wandered from the vision that once was his. Something other than the Christ holds the place supreme in the affections and desires. This is a sad state, and is not easily detected by any but the person himself. Song gives place to sadness, and spiritual themes are supplanted by secular things. Such a person is sick almost unto death and should adopt emergency measures at once. He should hurry to the Physician of souls for a correct analysis of his spiritual state, and tarry in His presence until again uncertainty is lost in faith and joy in the Holy Ghost restored. All this will come as a result of personal communion with God. A third symptom of spiritual sickness is—

When there is a secret resentment over being asked to give financial aid to world evangelism. Christ loved us, so we become His stewards, His trustees. He has conferred on us a great entrustment. He entrusts us with

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