

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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EDITORIALS

THE PREACHER'S VACATION

Your pastor needs a vacation. Doing the "work of the ministry" is an arduous task. A tremendous amount of nerve energy is required to carry on the praying, calling, preaching duties of the Gospel minister. The consecrated pastor is "on call" seven days a week. In all his hours of consciousness the concerns of the church and the Kingdom are upon his mind and heart. The spiritual welfare of every member of his flock is a major interest to him. Signs of weakness, discouragement, decline, trouble the true shepherd. Discord or disunity within the church are a grief to him. Preaching efforts below his best level leave him disappointed, if not depressed. These, and other demands on the conscientious pastor, drain his strength and tax his nervous system.

Though some people think the ministry is a "snap", a "soft job", many others know that this is a mistaken opinion. A minister can shirk his duty, avoid the unpleasant and difficult tasks related to his calling, and, in general, "take it easy." But such negligents are not too common, this editor thinks. My acquaintance with the men of our own ministry has led me to respect them for their zeal, diligence, and self-sacrifice. For the most part, our ministers are "working at the job".

Twentieth-century industrialists and employes recognize the workman's need of a rest period. It is now looked upon not merely as a right of the employe, but a provision that will benefit both the worker and the man or company employing him. In many stores, factories, offices, etc., brief rest periods are allowed daily. From these "breaks" the worker returns to his or her task refreshed and revitalized, to give better service in the time remaining than had been rendered without the fifteen-minute respite. Vacations with pay are provided by nearly all employers.

A few people and churches have failed to recognize that a "vacation with pay" for the pastor is a real need, one that will benefit both the man and the church he serves. Some ministers may claim that they have preached twenty, forty, fifty years "and never taken a vacation", but investigation hardly supports the claim. "The devil takes no holiday" says some professedly ardent soul. But "that is why he is a devil" was the classic reply of someone to such a comment.

If the preacher is really working at his task he will burn out prematurely if he doesn't have rest periods. Moreover, lacking the opportunity of a renewing of strength and vigour, his efficiency in preaching, calling, studying, etc., will drop far below his best level. Granted a vacation period the pastor will return to his work with fresh enthusiasm, energy, and purpose, and the church and community he serves will feel a new impact from his zealous labours.

See that your pastor gets a vacation. If the arrangement is not already established with your church, promote it and support it. If possible, pay him his salary in advance, and add to it a bit extra, so that he may be able to have the kind of rest period he needs. Some churches are very generous in this matter, advancing the pastor a good sum beyond his salary to be sure that he can arrange for a real vacation. Yes, your pastor needs a vacation. Any consideration given to make possible his enjoying one will bring back to your church a man who has a deeper appreciation of the people he serves and replenished physical resources for more effective service.

THE PREACHER ON VACATION

Perhaps all preachers will say "Amen" to the foregoing editorial on "The Preacher's Vacation". I hope that I may get some "Amens" from the same source on this word which is directed toward the minister himself.

If a church is considerate enough of the preacher and his work to arrange a "vacation with pay" respite for him the preacher should likewise be considerate of the church and himself and take a vacation.

One of my dictionaries defines a vacation as an "intermission of a stated employment", and, knowing that an intermission is "a temporary pause", we recognize that a vacation means a pause from the kind of employment we have been engaged in.

A real vacation is getting away entirely from the kind of work we have been doing. It would be no vacation to a doctor to take a five-hundred mile trip and carry on about the same programme of calls, operations, etc., as he had at home. It would be no rest period for a carpenter to leave the area in which he works and build houses somewhere else. Nor is it a real vacation to a minister to go to some other community or area and continue preaching (even as a visiting preacher), visitation, etc. If the preacher is on vacation, he should, in fairness to himself and his church, claim the right of taking a vacation. It would be fine if every preacher could spend the Sundays of his vacation period in an area where he is a stranger, where he could attend services of worship without preaching, praying, singing responsibility. If this is not possible, then the vacationing pastor should consider it fair and right to decline invitations to preach, conduct services, etc. Only in this way will the preacher have an "intermission of a stated employment."

Not all men find rest and relaxation in the same way, but every man, as he knows himself, should seek to spend his vacation period in the way that will give the greatest amount of rest to mind and body. If the vacation period is spent in trying to cover as many miles as the car will travel over, visiting all the friends and relatives in three counties, the preacher may have to rest after he comes home from his vacation. Quietness in retirement should

CONGRATULATIONS TO . .



Mrs. Mary Caldwell
Westchester, N. S.

On Sept. 1st., Mrs. Caldwell celebrates her one hundredth birthday. Born at Lower Greenville, N. S., Sept. 1st., 1855, she went to the United States at the age of 17, married there three years later, and returned to Nova Scotia where she has resided ever since.

Mrs. Caldwell was a practical nurse and for many years was looked to by the community in which she lived as a substitute for a professional physician. Scores of people benefited from her kindly and sacrificial service and many times suffering was relieved and lives saved through her ready response to the cry of need. A sunny disposition and optimistic outlook has made Mrs. Caldwell a beloved wife, mother, neighbor, and friend.

As this "mother in Israel" nears the century mark in age, she is, according to her daughter, Miss Hattie Caldwell "fairly well, her mind very clear and her interest keen in all events. She is very deaf, but her eyesight is fairly good and she reads a lot. She is getting quite feeble, and has to walk with a cane."

Mrs. Caldwell is a charter member of the Reformed Baptist Church of Westchester, N. S., and is now the oldest member of our denomination. She has been a subscriber to the "King's Highway" since it was first published. Her daughter states—"Mother has great faith in God, and is ready to go when He calls."

Our sincere and hearty congratulations to Mrs. Caldwell. May her remaining days on earth be happy and her translation to the city of God most glorious. Psalm 91:16.

AN IMPORTANT DATE

Sunday, October 3rd, is an important date on our Church Calendar, for that is the day set by our Alliance for our denominational Sunday School Rally and Home Mission Sunday. So we have just six weeks to plan for these special events. Worthy aims for the day would be a new attendance record for the Sunday School and a Budget-plan offering for Home Missions.

be a tonic to most preachers. The Master's "come ye apart" seems a good word for the weary workman. So, brother pastor, if your church makes arrangement for a temporary release from the duties of the pastorate, plan for the kind of holiday that will bring you back to the field of service refreshed and invigorated. Thus will your vocation profit from your vacation.