

# The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —  
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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## EDITORIALS

### Editor's Note:

The following editorials, published two years ago, are  
being reprinted by request. It is our hope that they may  
be read with profit by both pastors and laymen.—B. C.

### 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 shep-  
herd. 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 employers rec-  
ognize the workman's need of a rest period. It is now  
looked upon not merely as a right of the employee, 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 that 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 fore-  
going 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 "inter-  
mission 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, or 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

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