

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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EDITORIAL

THE LAWFUL AND THE EXPEDIENT

The apostle Paul's writings on the lawful and the expedient in Christian living, embodied in the first epistle to the church at Corinth, should be diligently read by all who desire that their lives may be fruitful, and the churches to which they belong effective, in the work of the Kingdom of Christ.

There seems to be a mistaken idea prevalent among the professed people of God to the effect that very choice and action of the Christian life can be determined by moral law. They cherish the idea that, if they abstain from all that is morally wrong, and carefully practise all that is morally right, they have met every condition necessary to a flourishing experience and a fruitful life. Their attitude concerning matters outside the realm of moral obligation is frequently expressed by such questions as: "What harm is there in this? Where is it forbidden in the Bible? Where in the Word does it state that we should do this, or should not do that?" And if you are not able to quote a scripture portion which bears specifically and directly on the subject in question, they conclude that they have the right to do as they please.

Now it is invariably true that the dear old Book is first, last, and always our accepted standard of faith and conduct, but it is equally true that there are many decisions we have to make in our Christian living which cannot be determined by moral standards and principles. The reason for this lies in the fact that the matter in question is unmoral in its nature and therefore the result involves no moral issue. We are in the realm of the "non-essential" in which we are left to make choices which knowledge and experience teach us can or cannot be to the best interests of our heart experience, and the advantage of the cause we represent. Doubtless because of carelessness or a lack of understanding of the influence of these choices, "many are weak and sickly among you," having little power in their own experiences and less in their influence over the world of ungodly. Whether we can go here or there, do this or that, indulge in this "harmless" amusement, or conform in dress or by some other means to the prevalent standard of fashion, these

and a multitude of other questions belong in this realm, and the answers cannot always be discovered in some exact statement of Divine truth or by asking ourselves whether the thing in itself is right or wrong.

What then shall we do concerning these things? Paul says, "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient." By this inspired declaration, and the lengthy discussion he engages in to make his thoughts clear to us, he imparts a principle to guide us in these matters which, while regarded by some as unimportant, are vitally influential in regard to our experience and witnessing in the world. What is the substance of Paul's recordings? Just this: When I am confronted with such problems as these, I am guided to my decision by a jealous care of my own spiritual destiny and a supreme love for the cause of Jesus. I do not claim every privilege that appears as my rightful possession, but rather weigh them as to discover what effect they would have on my love for Jesus and the attitude of the sinner toward the church I represent. I do not choose that which is lawful (the things I may include in the scope of my personal liberty) but rather, that which is expedient, (the things which will be most profitable to me as a Christian, and to the best advantage of the work of the Kingdom.)

To attempt to enumerate "what is right" and "what is wrong" in this sphere would lead to hopeless confusion and frequent disagreement, but we receive from the pen of the inspired apostle the sanest and safest rule of guidance in these matters. He says: "Those things which were gain to me, I counted loss for Christ," therefore, "though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all that I might gain the more."

I have worked over the Bible, prayed over the Bible, lived by the Bible for more than sixty years; and I tell you there is no book like the Bible. It is a miracle of literature, a perennial spring of wisdom, a wonder-Book of surprises, a revelation of mystery, an infallible guide of conduct, an unspeakable source of comfort.—Samuel Chadwick.

A REVIVAL FELLOWSHIP

Would you like to enter into a revival fellowship? Each of us would be strengthened in spirit and inspired in faith to know that many others were praying for revival. Remember how Elijah was encouraged by the revelation that there were yet seven thousand true Israelites? (I Kings 19:18).

If you would like to enter into a revival fellowship, you may do so thus: If you have been making revival a matter of special prayer and heart searching, write us a letter. Or if a church has been having additional weekly or daily prayer seasons for revival, the pastor or clerk may write. (It will be impossible to make replies). If there is a response to this suggestion, a general report (without individuals' names) can be given in "The Highway." Some suitable, short quotations could be published for the inspiration of all. As in the case of Titus (2 Cor. 7:13), our spirits will be refreshed by you all.

"Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works." (Heb. 10:24).

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