

The King's Highway

AN ADVOCATE OF SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS

VOL. XXXVIII

MONCTON, N. B., NOVEMBER 15TH, 1958

No. 449

"IN HOLINESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE HIM"

Rev. Seth C. Rees

"In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life" (Luke 1:75).

The salvation of a human soul is glorious beyond comparison. There is nothing else like it in the universe. It is always the beginning of days with the one who receives this wonderful salvation. But to retain it, to walk in the full power of this salvation, is no less important. To start well is grand; but to go on and finish creditably is infinitely greater and more wonderful. Many a man starts out proudly with his flags all flying and sails swelling, with bright hopes, and large prospects, but suffers most inglorious defeat. Thank God there is a way to go on, to advance, to continue, and to safely land in the harbor of the other country.

It is one thing to come in with masts torn away and sails in ribbons and flags gone, towed into port by some old tug; it is another thing to come proudly in, "sweeping through the gates, washed in the blood of the Lamb." It is one thing to throw off your lines and launch out amid waving of handkerchiefs, and the shouts of friends and loved ones, and it is another thing to meet a raging sea, to set yourself across angry billows, to outride every storm and make a triumphant and successful trip into the haven of eternal rest. Thank God, it is possible!

I used to almost dread to get old. So many people backslide, get crotchety, peevish, and hard to live with. But since I have come in contact with a few old saints, my heart has taken courage. I saw an old man of eighty-six some time ago stand up, and tremblingly declare that for sixty-five years he had been kept in the experience of perfect love; and then when I saw that old man skip before the congregation like a boy of sixteen, I said, "There is no age." There was something about this man so vigorous, beautiful and energetic at eighty-six that my heart leaped with joy, and I thanked God there is nothing away down in the evening of life that may turn us from a prosperous, triumphant, overcoming journey in this Christian war. It is progress or retrograde. It is to go forward or backward. It is to go on or to become a stagnant pool. It is to be a running stream or to breed malaria. So I have a text that deals not only with the present, but the future and all the way down to the end of our lives. Hallelujah! No one can stay saved long without going on and getting sanctified wholly. The only way to retain what one has is to add to it. The only way to succeed in God's service is to walk in every ray of light that comes, and when He shows one that he needs his Pentecost he must seek it, obtain and walk in it.

We call your attention to a few Scriptural consequences of not coming into the experience of holiness or entire sanctification; and the first is that you fall into the habit, the very dangerous habit, of sinning and repenting. There are very few people who keep this up very long. Sinning may be easy; but repentance is hard, and there are few people who sin and repent very long.

The consequence is, if you do not get delivered from inbred sin, you go on in sin without repenting. You get down at night and ask God to forgive you; but He doesn't do it. God doesn't forgive unless you repent; and you don't repent, because you do not expect to quit sinning. But God means that you shall go through by getting saved and sanctified wholly by the baptism with the Holy Ghost. Otherwise you grow weary of the way.

You send a little boy six years old to school for the first time. At the end of two weeks you ask him, "How do you like the school?" He says, "I don't like it." "Well, why don't you like it?" "'Cause I don't." "But Johnny, why don't you like it?" "Well," he says, "the teacher has kept me on ABC's for two weeks. I learned those the first day, and I am tired of the whole business." This is exactly why the people in all our churches are tired. The preachers have kept them on the first principles, giving them milk and water concoctions, and they want something different. The whole congregation is tired of A B C, A B C and in many places the preachers are tired of it themselves. They are the people in this country who are going to give an account to God for the backslidden condition of the churches.

One of the leading newspapers in the city of Chicago, edited by a representative man of the newspaper world, has given the most scathing rebukes I have ever read to the Chicago pulpit, and has charged the Chicago clergy with preaching almost everything in the world but the gospel, and makes the straight announcement in his own and other newspapers to prove that the pulpit has turned away from God. When we reach a state of affairs that the ungodly newspapers have to rebuke sin in the pulpit, we have reached a place where we ought to be alarmed; and the most alarming thing about it is that we are not.

Men are dwarfs when they ought to be giants; babies when they ought to be Samsons. They cringe and compromise with the world until they are weaklings. You can go on; or you can be a great, overgrown baby sitting around and getting your feelings hurt because people do not pay more attention to you. God help us to see that this whining simpering sentimentalism is not Bible religion at all. The Holy Ghost makes mighty men, He makes giants, tall characters, stalwarts for God. A baby is all right as long as it ought to be a baby; but it is sad enough when it fails to outgrow its clothes. God has a lot of great, big spiritual babies sitting around with rubber rings, and a tin horn or rattle when they should be strong men in Jesus Christ.

The next disastrous result I notice is dullness of hearing. The Apostle Paul says, "We have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing." If you fail to get sanctified wholly you will get confused about the voice of God. It may have been clear and plain, but the devil will confuse, bewilder, and

(Continued on Page 8)