

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

Published Semi-Monthly at Moncton, N. B.
by a Committee of the Alliance.

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— SUBSCRIPTION PRICE —

Per year, in advance.....\$3.00
United States Subscribers..... 3.00

SPECIAL NOTICE

All correspondence for the Highway should reach us
before the 8th and 23rd of each month.

The King's Highway, Box 277, Moncton, N. B.

Printed by Moncton Publishing Co., Ltd.

Printers and Publishers, Moncton, N. B.

AUTHORIZED AS SECOND CLASS MAIL
POST OFFICE DEPT. OTTAWA

MONCTON, N. B., NOVEMBER 16, 1959

EDITORIALS

"WHEN THROUGH THE DEEP WATERS....."

This seems to be a time of trial for many. Serious illnesses, sudden deaths, painful experiences of suffering and loss, are causing heartache with a host of God's children.

In my own personal ministry I have been associated with more of tragedy, serious illness, and death, in the last five years, than in all the previous twenty years of my ministry. I have officiated at as many funerals in the last five years as I did in the twenty preceding.

God's people are not promised freedom from affliction and trial. In fact, the Bible clearly and consistently warns that these are normal to the life of the Christian.

So often the afflicted one is tempted to think that pain, disappointment, or loss, bears witness of divine displeasure. The trial is regarded as a sign that there has been sin or failure on the part of the person who is caused to suffer. But such a conclusion can be the result of the weakness of human reasoning and understanding, or the subtlety of satanic accusation.

It is true that some suffer because of their own sins and wrong choices, but suffering is not always a sign of sin or wrong-doing. Some of God's choicest saints have "endured great trial of affliction". Among those who are even now suffering great physical pain, earthly loss, or sorrow, are some of the most devoted disciples of the Lord.

But associated with the Bible's warnings of trials, in the life of the godly, are promises that bring strength and assurance to the soul.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee...fear not: for I am with thee..." Isaiah 43:2,5. "Through the waters... through the rivers... through the fire..." And God is speaking to and of His own. Disaster may reach a flood tide, the fires of affliction and trial may burn with intensity, but in the midst of our adversity we may rest in the assurance that One stands "within the shadows,

keeping watch upon His own". God has neither forgotten nor forsaken.

"I will be with thee...I am with thee...". What blessed words are these! Friends may be present or absent, they may help, or fail to help, but the Lord has said "I will be there. I will stand by you. Fear not...". And how the presence of our Saviour-Friend brightens the day and lightens the way of His afflicted yet believing children!

"...the rivers shall not overflow thee... thou shalt not be burned..." Trial will come, but it will not overcome; the fire may be hot, but it will not consume. This is the word of the Master. Sometimes we may be tempted to think that we cannot stand, but we can; we may feel that we cannot endure, but we can. "My grace is sufficient for thee" is a promise that will not fail, however it is tested.

Sing a song of faith, O troubled soul, or, if you cannot sing, then listen...

"When thro' the deep waters I call thee to go,

The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;

For I will be with thee thy trials to bless

And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress..."

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IT IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU

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It is much more than a momentary trust in the blood of Christ for full salvation. It implies a leaping into the waters of God's fulness, and then a swimming about in the same. When beloved John Wesley asked the Moravian brother, Arvid Gradin, for his definition of full salvation, he replied: "Repose in the blood of Christ, a firm confidence towards God and persuasion of His favor, the highest tranquility, serenity, and peace of mind, with a deliverance from every (inordinate) fleshly desire and a cessation from all, even inward sin."

That definition is quite scriptural in its content, and supports the contention that the blessing itself cannot really be entered into without the life moment by moment being affected. A sanctified person is one who lives a sanctified life.

It implies a life of perfect love. Now that was the favorite definition of Wesley. His mind was most practical. "By Christian perfection" (or sanctification, or holiness) he said, "I mean loving God with all the heart, mind, soul and strength, which implies that no wrong temper, none contrary to love, remains in the soul, and all the thoughts, words and deeds" (in the life that is) "are governed by pure love." It is what my old college principal, John A. Broadbelt, used to call "living in the thirteenth of First Corinthians," and he ought to know, for he lived there himself for so many years.

Sanctification, lived out in the life, enables one to become well pleasing unto God. Paul said he labored among the believers at Thessalonica that they might "walk worthy of God," every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour."

Implying the absence of all sin, it brings in consequently the Pentecostal fulness of the Holy Ghost; the absence of the storm clouds and the advent of the sunshine. Christ IN us, Christ FOR us, Christ THROUGH us, and Christ OVER us, for adopted through grace into His family, we are now to be conformed to His image.

IT IS THE PROVISION OF GOD TOWARDS THE REALIZATION OF HIS WILL

To its attainment and realization He has called us. He is Himself faithful, and those who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true—"Faithful is he that calleth you,"