

"OH, THAT MEN WOULD PRAISE THE LORD!"

Rev. F. A. Dunlop.

I have just run through the February 15th issue of our "King's Highway" and my feelings are expressed in the words of the Psalmist. It seems the articles in this issue fairly throb with life and promise.

Our Editor's run down on the African work! Surely our missionaries must be operating on a scale to be thankful for. When other Groups are turning to us for closer fellowship and union, our work in Africa must be impressive. We need to make this move a matter of earnest prayer. This union of forces could do for our work what otherwise could not be accomplished in years.

Then, we have Rev. Green's article on Bethany. I have not realized hitherto the importance of our School. One could not give thought to the points brought out in our President's message without seeing how much the School has already done and what potential is there at work for future benefits.

The Young People's Page shows activity in that direction. Merle Smith is really working to keep that phase of our work out of the rut. The "Bible Quiz" is not only a smart idea, but a splendid means of education. Such a study of the Gospels, as the Quiz requires, cannot but leave our young people much wiser in the Word of God. Some fine work can be done by this arm of our Church if Merle is left in this office for a few years.

That our Churches still believe in evangelism, and that revival effort is the best means of promoting it, is evident in this issue of the Highway. So many of our Churches are operating on this level. May the Lord of the harvest give mightily of His help in every place.

Now, add to the above, some of my own experiences of late. I have been visiting some of our so called, smaller churches. In every place I have found larger Sunday School enrollment, better congregations in the services, and more consistent methods of supporting the Work financially. At Salem, where H. E. Mullen is pastor, I found a very great increase in both Sunday School and Church attendance. I believe the Sunday School attendance has tripped in the last few years. At Head of Millstream, where Bernard Brown is pastoring, I found increase again. That boy is doing a job at Millstream. I only hope the people in some of our larger churches don't get to hear him. We need capable men in these smaller churches. At Norton, Jack Stevens has a fine group coming regularly. I also was with Ron Morehouse for Sunday services at Maple Ridge and Millville. The weather was registering 18 below, with a brisk wind blowing, but that did not keep the people from attending service. So long, the attendance at Maple Ridge was a mere cipher, but not so any more. The people that supported holiness when I was there years ago, are gone, but a new generation has taken over and are doing a job, to be sure. Millville Church was well represented, and I felt that we had a good service there.

Last Sunday it was my privilege to share in the Dedication Service of our new Barker's Point Church. Our Pastor and People there deserve highest commendation for that achievement. What a lovely Church! So roomy, so bright. Everything so nicely done. This group has carried full responsibility for financing, besides supporting the Denominational budget since being organized. This is not always possible, but when it happens - Thank God!

Well, I just wanted to say to everybody far and near, Praise the Lord! I have merely scratched the surface of things we as a People have to be encouraged over. I could fill the Highway and still not have said it all. Time would fail me to tell of "Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae". But they are all at it and it looks like the "jam is breaking". Let's keep it moving!

The King's Highway

Sour Holiness

By J. Maxey Walton

in "Pilgrim Holiness Advocate"

Scriptural Holiness is attractive. It is never bitter, driving, nor censorious. If it has any of these characteristics, it is a sign that it has soured. And sour holiness never attracts people to God!

The caption of this article, "Sour Holiness," is used for want of a better. True holiness is never sour. However, down through the years, we have found some things that bore the label of holiness, but gave every evidence—to use a common way of expressing it — of having turned the corner.

It is possible to be orthodox and still lack a sweet spirit. We can have a gritty-teethed fundamentalism that drives away, rather than attracts. We can be uncompromising with sin and carnality, and yet lack the spirit of Jesus, his patience and kindness with people.

Jesus was wonderfully kind. He denounced sin and hypocrisy unmercifully, but was far from harshness, and canting criticism. He could talk straight, but loved a lot.

Sometimes we are wont to classify people as either radical, or as compromisers. Preachers and preaching are often classified this way.

Now Webster defines the word "radical" as meaning not only "extreme," but also, "fundamental, thoroughgoing, basal." The word, he tells us, relates to the "root or source of things."

This being true, Jesus was a radical preacher. He got at the source, or root, of things. His preaching was thoroughgoing, and it was basal. The opposers of his time called him an extremist.

We are fully convinced that no preacher can be true to his calling as a minister, be true to his God, and to his Bible, and not sometime, somewhere preach radical truth. But there is a vast difference between a firm declaration of positive truth as indicated by the Word of God, and a sour ranting about trifles. The preaching of holiness has sometimes been in disrepute because people failed to differentiate between the two. There is a possibility of being radical and also being "raspy" at the same time. Men can be true to truth, and yet hard to live with. We can be unswerving in our fidelity, but awfully uncharitable. It is possible to preach an unadulterated gospel, but season it with so much gall that it becomes bitter and unattractive. Our spirit and attitude can be so sour that no one wants the product we advertise.

No one needs to compromise by smiling once in awhile and looking pleasant! Gloom never has been synonymous with godliness in the Scripture as far as we know.

One thing that made Jesus' ministry so attractive was the fact that he never soured on his age. He was firm, but sweet. He preached rugged truth, but kept tender. The Pharisees picked flaws at him, but he never got vindictive. He could disagree with people and still love them. He never grew bitter, even when they hung him on the cruel cross and let him die in shame and agony. His was an example of true holiness.

There have been entirely too many peddlers of the soured religion, and it has left a bitter taste in too many mouths over the country. There is the genuine article, there is a true, scriptural holiness, and wherever you find it, it is always sweet and blessed.

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Let your hearts be much set on revivals of religion. Never forget that the churches have hitherto existed and prospered by revivals; and that if they are to exist and prosper in time to come, it must be by the same cause which has from the first been their glory and defence.

Joel Hawes.