

# The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —  
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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## SPECIAL NOTICE

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## EDITORIALS

### THE MINISTRY OF GOSPEL FILMS

The Church of Christ is sometimes slow and backward in respect to the use of all available means for effective service. Caution is often carried to extremes especially in regard to new inventions and innovations. As a result, potential instruments of service lie idle while we yield to weakening timidity and yell denunciations against the things we might use to advantage in the service of the Kingdom of God.

When the "wind organ" appeared on the market, many preachers and churches vigorously opposed its use in the holy sanctuary, declaring that it would be an instrument to foster pride in the hearts of the people and detract from the true spirit of worship. When radio first came on the scene, much energy was expended in the pulpit denouncing this new invention as a device of the devil, one that Christians would purchase and use at the peril of their souls.

Fortunately for the Church and the world, attitudes toward the use of these and other inventions by Christians and churches has undergone a change for the better. We recognize that an instrument in a church can be an object of pride, as can the building itself, the equipment it contains, and even the preacher himself. We also know that radio can be misused to our spiritual detriment. But we have also discovered that instruments dedicated to God and played by consecrated musicians, can be a great means of blessing and salvation to saint and sinner alike. And radio has provided a means of communication for the dissemination of the Gospel on a scale never dreamed of by the people of God of the last century.

It seems regrettable that we do not more quickly understand that some of the products of scientific research which can be and are an evil influence, are also a potential means of usefulness in the work of the Lord. We lose precious time and opportunity while we give off more heat than light denouncing that which might assist us in the task of evangelization.

Another medium of service which the Christian Church

is finally using to advantage is the movie camera and projector. For long years the evangelical Church has maintained and vocalized strong opposition to the Hollywood variety of moving pictures. And there seems to be no reason for a change in that position and proclamation. The type of entertainment (?) provided by this famous (or infamous) community of performers, has been a blight to the moral life of the nation and the world. In the opinion of the writer, the Hollywood variety of movies has done more to lower the moral standards of our generation than any other influence bearing upon society. Many of the "heroes" and "heroines" of the screen are disreputable characters who follow pernicious ways of living. There has been an absolute disregard for the sacredness of the marriage covenant on the part of many of them, and it is common for them to have had from two to six or seven marriages, unholy alliances made possible by moral laxity and loose divorce laws. Because of such conditions, evangelical churches will do well to maintain and express stout opposition to all the evil which Hollywood and Hollywood-produced movies spread like a terrible infection.

But here again we have erred. In our vehement denunciation of the evils of commercial movies, we have unconsciously included a rejection of a device that had great potential for good—the movie camera. Our opposition to the theater and its type of entertainment, has created in the minds of many an equally strong aversion to any type of "moving picture", and some have mistakenly concluded that since the production follows a pattern of operation similar to the theater film, it must be evil. But at last some clear thinking has been done on the subject and some wise action taken. Men of vision and faith began to think of the good that might be done through the use of Gospel films, and ventured to produce some. As a result, we now have a considerable list of such films which have a real ministry of blessing and make a tremendous impact on the minds and hearts of the viewers. There are missionary films, youth films, and films for general use, of a high caliber. And many have been blessed, stirred, and saved through them.

Recently I saw the film "Centerville Awakening", a one hour and thirteen minute story of a great spiritual awakening. Our church had been praying earnestly for a moving of the Holy Spirit, and this story, on film, of a revival which broke out under the prayerful ministry of a returned missionary, made a profound impression upon our people. It was followed by a time of weeping and praying before the Lord when pastor and people earnestly requested the Spirit of God to bring to light all that might hinder revival, and produce among us a great spiritual awakening.

Gospel films have a ministry unique. They should be chosen with care and wisely used. They do not and cannot take the place of the preaching ministry of the pulpit, but they can be a helpful supplement to it. They should not be obtained just to draw a crowd or entertain those who come to church, but they can be used to awaken interest and get a message to many hearts who might not receive it in any other way. Every pastor and church would do well to investigate this comparatively new medium of Gospel service.

### THE CHRISTIAN'S WARDROBE

Not for the clothes that garb our mortal bodies, but for those of the soul—the garments in which we must appear before Almighty God; the robes we wear on our earthly pilgrimage; the vestures of our Eternity — Our God has a wonderful wardrobe for His people. He bids them "put on thy beautiful garments."

W. Grist.

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