

# The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —  
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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## — Editorials —

### ASSESSING OUR ABILITIES

J. B. Phillips translates Romans 12:3, "As your spiritual teacher I give this piece of advice to each one of you. Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith that God has given to you all".

The consequences of overestimating our abilities may be disastrous. To aim at achievements of which we are incapable will lead to inevitable disappointment and frustration. If we "think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think", we will expect more of and for ourselves than we have a right to.

Some make the mistake of thinking that the only reason they have not enjoyed success equal to that realized by some others is simply because they have not had the same opportunities. Or they may feel that other people have failed to appreciate their potential greatness.

Humility is a grace to be coveted. It is a characteristic quality of noble character.

The "spiritual teacher" who gives counsel against the danger of our having "exaggerated ideas" concerning our importance, was well qualified to give such very personal advice. Though given a place in history as one of the greatest and most devoted disciples of the Lord Jesus, he refers to himself as "less than the least of all saints". Though recognized as the Church's foremost preacher-theologian he faced his apostolic assignments "in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling". Qualified to serve as minister of First Church of Antioch, or Dean of Theology at the University of Jerusalem, he joyfully served the Lord as a home mission pastor-evangelist, labouring with his hands "because we would not be chargeable unto any of you".

It usually falls out that the man who is selected for a position of responsibility is the man who feels himself incapable or insufficient; the person upon whom some honour is conferred is the person who accepts the tribute under a deep sense of unworthiness. If we feel that we are too big to devote ourselves to the seemingly insignificant task, it is doubtful whether we shall ever be asked to do anything that seems more vital. If we consider it below us to take the humble position, someone else will

likely be selected for the higher one.

If we are tempted to think that the place in which we serve is small, we might well remember that "Nazareth was a little place, and so was Galilee". If we are inclined to feel that we are only asked to occupy the humble positions, we may be helped by recalling the words of Jesus: "... he that is greatest among you shall be your servant".

An accurate assessment of our abilities would doubtless lead us very quickly to a conclusion and confession that we are unworthy of the lowest place in the Kingdom and incapable of doing justice to any task, however, humble, that the Master assigns to us. And that very spirit and attitude will qualify us for higher and better service.

### A DAY TO PRAY

The world needs prayer. The Church needs prayer. The Christian needs prayer.

Never since men first learned to call upon God has earnest prayer been more urgently needed. It is the one hope for a sin-weary world; it is the one hope of an important Church; it is the one hope of the Christian in this modern world of evil influence and spiritual conflict.

The decision of our Alliance to designate the first Friday of each month as a day of fasting and prayer throughout our denomination was timely. I wonder if we have taken it as seriously as we should.

The Church of to-day is faced with tremendous challenge and terrifying responsibility. Every other organization has failed in bidding for the world's confidence. There have been many tries, and as many failures. And now humanity teeters crazily on the brink of a precipice from which she may tumble at any moment (according to the warnings of scientists and statesmen) into a chasm of ruin and obliteration. And in desperation, many look to the Church for the help that is lacking elsewhere.

Facing the stark, ugly facts, we must concede that the Church has been lacking in the spiritual potency that is needed to turn back the tide of evil and bring victory in the name of the Lord. In a country where denominations can be counted by the score and church buildings by the thousand, trends within national and social life are increasingly evil. Blasphemy, drunkenness, adultery, and incest are offences freely committed by people of all ages and both sexes. We are literally surrounded by benighted souls, blighted lives, and broken homes. The devil is having a field day in spreading havoc and disaster across the face of the earth. It is high time that he was challenged by a Church aroused by a mighty spiritual renaissance to launch a crusade in the name and power of Christ Jesus the Lord.

Prayer is our hope and our help. It is the means to the end we seek. Prayer will bring new power to the Church; prayer will bring new life to the Christian; prayer will bring new hope to the world.

Friday, November 4th. is the next denominational day of prayer. Let us post a notice on our billboards, make announcement from our pulpits, admonish our people in public exhortation and personal conversation to join in this prayer crusade. Blessing and victory would follow such a united effort!

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As long as the church is just one of the many institutions, she will have her little day. She will die and that will be all. But just as soon as she gets the Spirit of Jesus until the world thinks she has gone stark crazy, then we shall be on the high road to capture this planet for Jesus.—Dr. Joseph Parker.