

## — Our Pastors Speak —



### History of Hezekiah HIS RECOVERY

by Rev. B. G. Bridgeo

"In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death.

And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord—"

(II Kings 20:1-6).

Truly one of the most solemn messages ever delivered was received by king Hezekiah. The effect of this message, "Hezekiah wept sore." He was in great trouble and distress of mind. It was not because of a lack of Godly fear and respect, but rather an instinctive love of being which we all possess. Hezekiah loved the Kingdom of Israel and there probably existed in his mind a reasonable fear for its welfare. Who will be my successor? What will come of the national confusion that will result from my death at this time? Who will take up the cause of love and justice? Even now the enemies of Israel were scheming for the eventual overthrow of this kingdom and with Hezekiah out of the way their evil ends would all the sooner become reality.

Let us notice then the course which Hezekiah adopted. "If any man be afflicted, let him pray." This is exactly what he did. Oh! Would to God that in the midst of our afflictions we would find recourse to prayer. No mighty exploits have ever been accomplished without prayer.

For many people the habits of prayer were a great deal different, for they prayed to Gods of wood and stone. Hezekiah prayed to God. The prayer was direct and intimate. "He turned his face to the wall." He shut out the world. In his fervency and earnestness he faced God and placed before the Almighty a holy life of love and devotion. How wonderful it is to turn to God in hours of affliction and be conscious of a clean heart, pure motives, and a past conspicuous because of its devotion to the will of God! "Hallelujah what a Saviour"! This my beloved Highway readers is an area which should demand our close attention. What is the cause of many of our defeats? Why have we so little power in areas which demand it? I believe we will find our answer when we turn our face to the wall and plead for mercy from God.

For our second point I am going to use an expression which all have heard for years. Could it be that our hearing has dulled our spiritual senses? God hears and answers prayer. God said to Hezekiah, "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears". How potent, how almost almighty is prayer. "The fervent effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much". Don't give up so easily, even when God said "Thou shalt die". Hezekiah's prayer was successful. Even as I pen these words today my heart is heavy for some who have neglected God. But because I have not seen them saved as yet, I certainly am not going to give them up. It is our duty as ministers of the gospel, as faithful laymen of our churches, to bear burdens for the lives of others who have been injected with the opium of unbelief and faithlessness. May we be true to this grand purpose.

Again let us notice the result of Hezekiah's prayer. Visible results are the most convincing to an onlooking world. Hezekiah received more from God than he asked for.

The King's Highway

## Even Your Sanctification

by Evangelist Wilfrid E. Moutoux

Christian workers are often asked the question, "Do you think it is God's will for me to do, or say, this or that?" A wise counsellor will often find it best to avoid telling others what they ought to do.

Though we may not know God's will for others in the varied details of life, we can be certain that it is God's will that they be sanctified. God very plainly and graciously tells us His Will in 1 Thess. 4:3 "This is the will of God your sanctification."

In every area of existence there are some things foundational and basic, on which all else rests. So it is in the spiritual. Sanctification is the door into close communion with God. If we do His Will here we will, "Learn of the doctrine," of His Will in every detail of our lives. To fail here will close the door to further revelations from Him.

God, who knows, "What is in man," knew that unless and until the carnal mind was destroyed, and natural man subjugated, we could not, and would not obey His Will even if we did know what it was. This then, is the foundation upon which His plans for us are laid. This is the code God will use to reveal Himself to us. If we refuse His Will here we forfeit His leadership in our lives.

"Obedience is better than sacrifice." God's tender father heart is pleased when we obey. He is more concerned that our wills be surrendered to His Will than He is about any other consideration. Only such an experience as sanctification can bring about such a surrender.

"The carnal mind is enmity against God, and is not subject to the law of God . . ." (Romans 8:7). This subversive character must be destroyed before we shall ever be able to do God's will. Romans 6:6 proclaims the good news of its destruction, "Knowing this that our old man is crucified with Him that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

We cannot serve both God and sin. God wills that we be sanctified so that we might be able to serve Him. What He wills for us He is able to accomplish in us. Let us surrender to His Will, "Our sanctification."

### NOT DEFEATED

One writer has made a beautiful application to the resurrection of Christ of an incident in history. Here it is. It is said that the news of the Battle of Waterloo first came by a sailing ship to the southeast coast of England, and by signal was wig-wagged to London. When the message reached Winchester, the signals on top of the cathedral began to spell the message: W-e-l-l-i-n-g-t-o-n d-e-f-e-a-t-e-d and then the fog descended and hid the signals and the whole country was in despair. But after a while the fog lifted and the signals on the Winchester cathedral were still at work spelling out the complete sentence: W-e-l-l-i-n-g-t-o-n d-e-f-e-a-t-e-d t-h-e e-n-e-m-y.

The thrilling news raced across the land and lifted all hearts out of gloom into joy. So the heavy gloom of Calvary fled before the victory of the resurrection. The resurrection means defeat turned in to victory.

—Anonymous

Is this not just like our loving God? He anticipated the length of time necessary for the king to accomplish his tasks and gave Hezekiah an extension of fifteen years.

Would you like to know in what year you are going to die? Hezekiah did, and perhaps this knowledge may have affected some of his later decisions. Let us pray that God will "teach us to number our days" that in the use of them we may wisely obey the will of God. "Be ye therefore ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh!"