

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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— Guest Editorial —

THE PREACHER'S VACATION

by Rev. B. C. Cochrane

Your pastor needs a vacation. Doing the "work of the ministry" is an arduous task. A tremendous amount of nerve energy is required to carry on the praying, calling, preaching duties of the Gospel minister. The consecrated pastor is "on call" seven days a week. In all his hours of consciousness the concerns of the church and the Kingdom are upon his mind and heart. The spiritual welfare of every member of his flock is a major interest to him. Signs of weakness, discouragement, decline, trouble the true shepherd. Discord or disunity within the church are a grief to him. Preaching efforts below his best level leave him disappointed, if not depressed. These, and other demands on the conscientious pastor, drain his strength and tax his nervous system.

Though some people think the ministry is a "snap", a "soft job", many others know that this is a mistaken opinion. A minister can shirk his duty, avoid the unpleasant and difficult tasks related to his calling, and, in general, "take it easy." But such negligents are not too common, this editor thinks. My acquaintance with the men of our own ministry has led me to respect them for their zeal, diligence, and self-sacrifice. For the most part, our ministers are "working at the job".

Twentieth-century industrialists and employers recognize the workman's need of a rest period. It is now looked upon not merely as a right of the employee, but a provision that will benefit both the worker and the man or company employing him. In many stores, factories, offices, etc., brief rest periods are allowed daily. From these "breaks" the worker returns to his or her task refreshed and revitalized, to give better service in the time remaining than had been rendered without the fifteen-minute respite. Vacations with pay are provided by nearly all employers.

A few people and churches have failed to recognize that a "vacation with pay" for the pastor is a real need, one that will benefit both the man and the church he serves. Some ministers may claim that they have preached twenty, forty, fifty years "and never taken a vacation", but investigation hardly supports the claim. "The devil takes no holiday" says some professedly ardent soul. But "that is why he is a devil" was the classic reply of someone to such a comment.

If the preacher is really working at his task he will

burn out prematurely if he doesn't have rest periods. Moreover, lacking the opportunity of a renewing of strength and vigour, his efficiency in preaching, calling, studying, etc., will drop far below his best level. Granted a vacation period the pastor will return to his work with fresh enthusiasm, energy, and purpose, and the church and community he serves will feel a new impact from his zealous labours.

See that your pastor gets a vacation. If the arrangement is not already established with your church, promote it and support it. If possible, pay him his salary in advance, and add to it a bit extra, so that he may be able to have the kind of rest period he needs. Some churches are very generous in this matter advancing the pastor a good sum beyond his salary to be sure that he can arrange for a real vacation. Yes, your pastor needs a vacation. Any consideration given to make possible his enjoying one will bring back to your church a man who has a deeper appreciation of the people he serves and replenished physical resources for more effective service.

★ ★ ★ WHAT CONSTITUTES A MAJOR APPOINTMENT

A report in one of our church periodicals of a certain annual conference which met recently contained this striking phrase: "Although major appointments were few . . ."

This phrase set us to thinking. What did the reporter mean? Evidently he meant there were few changes in the major appointments of the conference.

Then came this question: What did the reporter mean by major appointments? Well, just what the term means to many people — big city churches; churches with large membership; churches which pay large salaries; churches with prestige and status. Those, we infer, are the major appointments to which the reporter referred.

But just what really should constitute a major appointment? Should size and financial ability and prestige be the sole determining factors?

Or should the consecration of its members, their loyalty to the church and its causes, their per capita giving and their evangelistic and missionary fervor have anything to do with it? Should the number of its young people who enter the ministry and other full-time Christian service be a part of the picture? Should the number of people it sends to other churches to become active workers be an evidence of its importance? Should the spirit of sacrifice on the part of its members have any bearing on the matter? Should deeds commensurate with ability be a measuring stick of greatness?

Just what is a major appointment?

Is it not time for us to begin to rethink this whole subject? Is it not possible that we shall discover that some of the churches enjoying a preferred status by human standards will be reduced to a second-rate role? Is it not highly probable that many considered minor and mediocre appointments will move up to a higher classification?

Size and ability and location, from a distinctly Christian view point, have little to do with the importance of an appointment. What a church is doing with its ability and opportunity determines role. But in the sight of God all appointments are major. — Editorial, North Carolina Christian Advocate.

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"The token of the Divine Presence is the fire of the Holy Ghost. When we pray for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, we are praying that God will send through our nature this searching, scorching flame, that it may burn up in heart and life whatever is earthly and sinful."

—Samuel Chadwick.

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