

## Heaven — Or Not?

by Stephen S. White

Can a person who is saved, and not sanctified wholly, get to heaven?

One of our earlier leaders used to say, "No saved person will ever go to hell, and no unsanctified person will ever get into heaven." This was one good way of describing the situation, or of answering your question. The statement seems to be a contradiction, but it is not. Here is what the leader meant by the statement: If a baby dies before it comes to the time of accountability, it is in the kingdom, but it is not sanctified; it still has the sin nature, or carnal nature. However, our church has never taught that babies, if they die before they reach the age of accountability, go to hell. They go to heaven. Nevertheless, they do not get into heaven with the sin nature still within, or without holiness. Sometime, at death or after death, God sovereignly, or apart from their will or choice, cleanses their hearts from inbred sin and makes them holy. Thus they are fitted for heaven.

Likewise if a person who is saved and walking in all the light he has, dies, his heart will be sovereignly cleansed from the carnal mind and fixed up for a holy heaven. Someone has said that a better way to approach this question is as follows: Can a person who is saved refuse to walk in the light as to holiness and keep saved? Of course the answer is, "No." But if the person has not yet received the light on holiness and should die, God would fix him up for a holy heaven, apart from his will, on the basis of the choices which he had made—the salvation which he did have. This does not contradict the text, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). Neither does it in any sense let down the standard; for the people around holiness churches—and sometimes even under other circumstances—get the light on holiness more quickly than we think. And if they deliberately turn down this light, they backslide. They may still profess to be saved, but they are not saved if they have come up to the light on holiness and have refused to pay the price and get the blessing. Light—apprehended truth—is the most dangerous truth with which Christian people ever have to deal. Whatever your state of grace may be, whether saved or sanctified, you backslide when you deliberately refuse to walk in the light of God. There is nothing of which I am more afraid than spiritual light.

— Herald of Holiness

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Kathleen Hay

"Oh," sighed small Nan, "I don't know what to do!"

"My!" exclaimed granny, from her seat in the corner where she sat contentedly knitting. "Don't know what to do with so many pretty things to play with all around the room! Why, Nan."

Nan's eyes fell upon the pretty things scattered here and there.

Then came the words very softly spoken—"I had forgotten all the nice things about me, Granny, and I was just thinking about the rain outside."

Grandmother smiled, and motioned the little girl to her side.

"You are not the only one that forgets to count good things when something we think is unpleasant comes; today it happens to be an overcast sky and rain. I used to feel that way once until I made up my mind one day to make the best of everything and count my blessings each day."

Nan's eyes began to shine with interest.

## BE A MAN of GOD...

"Preachers of the Gospel have no greater reason for living than to be men of God. And a preacher of the Gospel who is not a man of God betrays the very thing he is charged to guard."

This suggestive thought calls to mind several very practical and concrete elements in the image of the minister as a man of God. The first is the element of prayer. The minister is expected to be a man of prayer — and not just in private — the people expect him to be a man of prayer in public, too.

This means that the visit not terminated by prayer should be the exception rather than the rule. Just when the minister is wondering whether the family will be embarrassed if he asks to pray, they are wondering if he actually intends to leave without a prayer. We know ministers who habitually make hospital visits without prayer; one, who even dismisses serious personal counselling sessions without prayer. Such men have no claim upon the office they occupy as men of God.

Another element is inoffensiveness. The man of God will never create an offense against the image of godliness, even if that image is an unreal one. We have in mind a sight we witnessed not long ago. A minister was standing in a crowd of teenagers outside a church. We knew, personally, several of those teenagers who smoked, but they weren't smoking at the church. The minister was. Presently the crowd went inside. The minister took his cigarette with him.

Now we are not arguing the pros or the cons of smoking. But we are saying that a minister who does not show as much instinctive respect for the proprieties of things as his teenagers, does not carry the credentials of a man of God. The Apostle warned Christians against causing the weaker brother to offend. Of the man of God, this is required ten times over.

Another element is that of witness. The man of God is an ambassador of the King of Kings. He has no excuse ever for speaking in an official capacity — within the sanctuary or without — without bearing testimony to his Lord. A senator, speaking before a civic club, who did not make mention of politics would be considered a bit odd. The minister who stands to speak anywhere without mentioning the Lord Jesus Christ has lost stature as a man of God, even before unbelievers.

This thought reminds us of the principal way most ministers fail as men of God: they do not stand for God when they are challenged; they stand mostly for themselves. When asked by a worried parishioner, "What is the right thing, preacher?" their answer is too often calculated to make themselves liked, to please the parishioners, or to benefit the church. They do not answer what they know God would have said. Such men are betrayers of their trust as surely as an ambassador of the U.S. would betray his country if, in negotiations with a foreign power, he spoke in such fashion as to make himself popular rather than represent his government.

Preachers of the Gospel, be men of God!

—The Presbyterian Journal.

"Count your blessings every day,

See how quick they come—

You can't figure fast enough

To finish up the sum!"

"That's a pretty good motto for all Nan; what do you think?"

"I think it's the best sum of all," she replied, smiling happily again.—Olive Plants.

The King's Highway