

# The King's Highway

Bethany Library

## AN ADVOCATE OF SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS

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### DO YOU BELIEVE IN ETERNAL SECURITY?

by Dr. John Church

I certainly do. I believe that when Christ saves a soul He intends to get it to heaven, if that person will do his part. God does not save us on thirty days trial. He saves us to get us to heaven. He has made ample provision, not only to save and sanctify us, but to keep us moment by moment. He made provision for us to have the Holy Spirit come in and cleanse our hearts, and abide with us forever. He has also provided for us a living High Priest, who ever lives to make intercession for us, and if needed, to be our Advocate. He has also provided the blood to keep us clean moment by moment. (That is what John is saying in I John 1:7 where he speaks of walking in the light, and the blood cleansing us from all sin. The word "cleanseth" is in the present tense. That means it is going on all the time we are walking in the light.) God has even provided His angels to watch over us and keep us from stumbling.

If some people could see the ample provision that God has made to keep them, I feel sure they would be much more stable in their lives. God loves His children and wants to keep them.

While I believe in Eternal Security, I do not believe in the kind of security that some people advocate — this idea that, once you have been saved, you can go out and live in sin and do as you please, and yet God will keep you and bring you home to heaven. The Bible does not teach that kind of security. The Bible does not teach unconditional security.

The Bible clearly teaches that there are some things that you have to do to get saved. Paul says, "It is by grace ye are saved through faith." There you will find two things that enter into your salvation. One of them is grace. There is plenty of that to save anyone and everyone. However, not everyone will be saved. It is not because they can't be saved, but it is due to the fact that they will not accept the grace for salvation. Until faith works, grace is ineffective.

Now just as surely as there are some things you must do to get saved there are also some things that you have to do to keep saved. We are kept by the power of God through faith. Here again, two things enter into our being kept. One of them is the power of God. There is plenty of that for any need we may have. However, we need to see that there is another side to being kept, and that is our faith. Just as grace will not work without faith for our salvation, just so the power of God can't work without our faith.

Faith is the thing that brings us into touch with Christ. It is from Him that we receive eternal life. There can be no eternal life when we are separated from Christ. It is only as we abide in Him that we have life. When you are separated from Christ you are as devoid of life as a branch is when it is cut off from the vine. That is just what Jesus teaches in John 15:2 and also John 15:6.

Paul in Romans 1:20-21 says, "Because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not

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### THE BETHANY VOTE

Action was taken at our Alliance session last summer that resulted in a visitation of our churches during the months of September to December to conduct a vote on the question of relocating our Bethany Bible College in Sussex, N. B.

Those who participated in these meetings as well as many who were unable to do so have been anxiously awaiting the final result of our denominational vote. Having completed the visitation program and reported to our executive which delegated the task of carrying out the vote to me, we are now able to report a 78.5% favorable vote to relocate the school according to the proposed plan.

As we began the task of taking this vote, our prayer was that God would direct our people in their voting and that whatever the outcome might be it would be a clear, strong vote that would cause us to feel the future of Bethany was being Divinely ordered. We trust that now the vote has been taken with our people expressing themselves so definitely in favor of attempting a relocation program that everyone will co-operate. May we be much in prayer that God will grant wisdom to the Boards and Committees responsible for carrying out the tremendous amount of work involved in the months ahead.

Many have been doubtless wondering what action has been taken relative to the offer of buildings in Presque Isle. Early in November the Board of Bethany Bible College travelled to the site and investigated the matter. Following investigation and discussion the Board did not believe the proposition to be feasible and reported the same to the Executive in their December meeting.

On January 3 a combined meeting of the Alliance Executive and the Bethany Board was held in Saint John to begin working out plans for the relocation program. Very soon the Finance Committee will be promoting a financial campaign to raise the necessary funds for the project. Generous giving on the part of our people and open doors to financial resources will be necessary. Will you join in prayer with the combined Boards praying that God will prepare the way as the financial campaign is launched?

The work of our denominational school is vital in carrying out the church's mission. Let us endeavour to make Bethany an effective instrument to the glory of God. True, the relocation task is a sizable one but may we not lose sight of the fact that our God is able to do the exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think. If we will faithfully do our part, God, I believe, will do His part and see us through.

H. R. Ingersoll

highminded but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee." Also see Romans 8:12-14.

All through the New Testament we are taught that there is plenty of grace to save and keep us, but it also teaches that there are some things we have to do to be kept. If we will do our part you can rest assured that God will do His part. He wants to bring us home to heaven.

—The Herald