



"You will know them by their fruits." Mt. 7:16

From: SCRIPTURAL DEATH-ROUTE HOLINESS

By Rev. L. S. Boardman

Chapter 14. The Result of "Death-route" Rejection

There is a far more serious opposer than one who simply misunderstands what we mean by the term "death-route." We refer to one who DOES have a clear understanding of the term, and yet does everything he can to stamp out both the term and the reality for which it stands. This opposer soon discovers how impossible it is to oppose the "death-route" without also opposing the ones who endeavor to promote it, as well as the God who originated the plan -and placed it in the Bible!!!

"For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?

Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?

So we see that they *could not enter in because of unbelief.*"

Hebrews 4 "Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard *did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.* For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,'" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works"; and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest." Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter *because of disobedience*, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, *Do not harden your hearts.*" For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, *lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.* For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. Hebrews 3:14 to 4:14 New King James Version

Above in Hebrews 4:1, we are warned against coming short of "His rest." Why? We know "His rest" refers to holiness because verse nine says it is only for the people of God. When Christ prayed that the disciples might become sanctified, He said the world could not receive this blessing (John 14:17).

Many "death-route" rejecters have bitterly opposed the preacher under whose influence and preaching they went

down the “death-route,” almost to the terminal, saw the price of crucifixion, and backed out. Often there is a bitterness that causes such an one to spend years trying to destroy the influence and ministry of the man who preached them under this deep conviction in the first place.

In many instances their bitterness against the “death-route” is so pronounced that it aims at ALL “death-route” promoters. Such an opposer seems not to realize that when he tries to destroy the influence of a “death-route” holiness preacher, he is waging war against the Holy Ghost Himself.

This is a sin for which Jesus said there would be no forgiveness (Matt. 12:31-32). Such interference becomes a very serious matter with the judgment day and eternity facing us all.

The “Kill-route” Catastrophe

Did you ever notice how often those who reject the “death-route” take the “kill-route”? So often they will try to destroy the “death-route” emphasis and the influence of its loyal supporters.

A spiritual church may be doing well until a carnal element moves in.

Problem-prone Persons

Have you not noticed that persons who come to grips with deep, “death-route” conviction, and reject it, often become problem personalities in their church, in their homes and wherever they work or do business? Their carnality seems to become more sensitive and bitter than it was before they rejected the light on “death-route holiness.”

It seems also, that sanctified persons can be far more difficult and disagreeable after they have backslidden from their pure, sanctified state of grace. Matthew 12:43-45 may throw some light on this mystery. This passage states that when an evil spirit is cast out of a person, that evil spirit is very unhappy until he returns and finds that heart where he once resided, empty, swept and garnished. It seems the Holy Spirit Who purified that heart had departed (I Sam. 28:15). Adam Clarke says that “empty, swept and garnished” means the Holy Spirit and His fruits were gone and left the heart empty. The evil spirit then reenters that heart, bringing with him seven of his associates, making that person seven times more wicked than he was in the first place.

In this connection Adam Clarke has this to say:

The last state of that man is worse than the first. His soul, while influenced by the Spirit of God, was dilated and expanded under its heavenly influences, so that it becomes more capable of refinement in iniquity, as its powers are greater than formerly. Evil habits are formed and strengthened by relapses; and relapses are multiplied, and become more incurable, through new habits.

“So shall it be also unto this generation.” And so it was: for they grew worse and worse, as if totally abandoned to diabolic influence; till at last the [broom] of destruction swept them and their privileges, national and religious, utterly away. What a terrible description of a state of apostasy is contained in these verses! May he who readeth understand. [1]

Peter also sounds the depths of this mystery in words which should soften the hardest heart. He declared:

“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them” (2 Peter 2:20-21).

Some of these “death-route” rejecters will leave the church, and it may become impossible to ever get them back. Others will stay in the church for years, but they seem more inclined to create personality problems than they did before they were ever saved. Carnality, when it receives a threatening blow, and yet is not entirely killed, or perhaps later comes back to life, seems to be more on its guard, and more jealous of its citadel than in former years before it was disturbed. It is therefore, a very dangerous thing for one to come to grips with the issue of true “death-route”

holiness and reject it, and settle back into a carnal state and decide to stay that way. It is no less perilous for one to pray through, receive this wonderful experience of holiness, and then lose it because of disobedience or carelessness, and turn away from it, and oppose it.

It has been noticeable at times, that people who were extremely sensitive to making restitutions when they were first converted, when they later on backslide, can get involved in the most terrible sins within the church, against God's anointed, and never once be willing to repent and make confession and restitution for their wrongs. Many times they don't admit to being backslidden. They continue to function in the church in their former capacity. Even when the pastor or evangelist preaches on restitution as strong and clear as words ever could make it, they may become more rebellious and reactionary, but they do not feel conviction, or guilt as they one time did. Some refer to this as being gospel-hardened, or having a seared conscience (I Tim. 4:2). At any rate, it is a very dangerous condition to fall into (Matt. 12:45).

Carnal Confederacies

Many have followed strong personalities out of the will of God. They sometimes form strong collusions which create head-on collisions between personalities, which seriously damage the work of God, defy the Holy Ghost and crush the hearts of the Spirit-filled and the conscientious. The only way to safeguard against getting caught in this apostate condition is to die out completely to the last trace of carnality and have a purified (sanctified) heart.

When warm, holy friendships are damaged or destroyed by personality collisions, only the Holy Spirit can cure the leprous condition in the church and in the lives of those affected--and then, only when the guilty ones will humble themselves, repent and make wrongs right. It is always easier for the innocent ones to seek reconciliation than for the guilty. However, any who reject all pleas for reconciliation, and who refuse to repent of their wicked influence have no more hope of heaven than Esau whom God hated (Rom. 9:13), or Ephraim who was "joined to his idols" (Hosea 4:17). No Christian would ever fall into this pitiful condition if he had allowed God to crucify his carnality, purify his heart and guide his steps.

Sanctified people always grieve when the devil uses carnality in the church to effect division and devastation. They long for healing and will do what they can to accomplish it, as the Lord leads.

Jesus taught that "...if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother and then come and offer thy gift" (Matt. 5:23-24).

Even the most unintentional misunderstandings will sometimes cool warm friendships. However, when both parties involved are genuinely sanctified "holy" and "wholly" the remedy which Jesus prescribed in Matt. 18:15-17 will work marvelously. However, it will not work when either party is stubborn and unrelenting.

Rejecters Are Forfeitters

This is striking, but true: if one willfully rejects the crucifixion of his carnal self when he sees the light, he automatically rejects and forfeits the benefits of Christ's crucifixion and atonement. As long as one's reactions are carnal, the Old Man is not dead. The Scriptures plead: "Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach" (Heb. 13:12-13). Bearing His reproach, which means nothing less than crucifixion, is a requirement of all true followers of Jesus. As Christ took His "death-route" to PROVIDE our sanctification (Heb. 13:12) we are to take our "death-route" in order to RECEIVE our sanctification (v. 13). Christ requires the crucifixion of all of our proud, stubborn, selfish, old, carnal ego before He will enter the control room of our hearts and take over.

This "death-route" is the only Scriptural highway from the corruption of carnal self to heart-purity in Christ. "Death-route" opposers are devastating to true Christianity. They have been known to blanket official boards, or ruling bodies along with other top officials, with letters, bitterly denouncing the "death-route" and have been successful in removing a segment of the "death-route" emphasis from the denomination's official literature. This is a deadly thrust against true holiness at the very heart of the holiness church, through its publication department! Be not surprised when spiritually vigorous movements thus lose the power of the Holy Ghost. Are not all Christians supposed to be responsible for the preservation of Scriptural and spiritual heritage? Are they not supposed to stand

up in defense, when former holiness landmarks are threatened? Is it not mockery at its worst, when those holding responsible positions in a holiness church militate against true holiness and promote an off-brand substitute?

When Leaders Lose Out

A fearful tragedy appears in the lives of those who one time did take the “death-route” to the terminal, and were gloriously sanctified holy, but they do not now have the experience. Many of them attained to a high level of power and influence in the church, but they grieved the Holy Ghost away and became politically corrupt in handling the business of the church. There are many who DO believe in the crucifixion of themselves, and who preach it in theory, but they themselves are no longer crucified, nor are they living the sanctified life as they once did. Their problem is that the Old Man didn’t STAY dead. *It seems to be a fairly consistent pattern* for many church leaders, if they are in leadership very long, to maintain holiness in their theology, but become carnal in their spirit and dealings.

“He answers me no more,
My pride has closed the door;
Oh, I’ve trifled with God and conviction,
Till He answers me no more!”

Backslidden, professed Christian leaders are among the devil’s greatest helpers for robbing any church of true Christianity. The overall purpose of this book is to create an overwhelming desire on the part of backsliders and other lost, hell-bound souls to go all the way back to God and prepare for heaven; to alert careless ones who are beginning to slip into a condition which, if not checked would mean eternal loss to their souls; and to urge professed Christians on every level of influence, to gain and retain the best possible Christian experience that is available to them, for the sake of their own eternal hope and their tremendous influence on others. Let us all, now and forever, be totally emptied of self and filled with God!

“Emptied of self, and filled with Thee,
Spirit of God, abide with me;
Help me to die to self and sin,
Spirit divine, come in, come in!”

Infamous Influence Is Inexcusable

One who does not understand the need of his own crucifixion may be to some extent excusable, but one who does understand it and rejects it and tries to destroy it from the church, is both anti-Christ and anti-Holy Ghost. There is hope for one who does not understand it, if he will keep his heart lowly and open to God and walk in all the light which God gives him. Paul confessed that he persecuted the church and tried to destroy it, but he did it ignorantly in unbelief (I Tim. 1:13).

The faithful Holy Ghost will reveal the truth of “death-route” holiness to anyone whose mind is not closed. If God could get the initial step toward this vital truth across to Saul of Tarsus after he had been destroying Christians, He should be able to get it across to anyone who will be open-minded and honest (Acts 9:1-9).

“Help me to watch and pray,
And on Thyself rely,
Assured if I my trust betray,
I shall forever die.”

The Calamity of the Cleric Chess Game

When the more influential in the church become over-ambitious *they tend to operate like playing a game of chess, using human underlings as pawns*. Many of their victims were God-anointed men, but selfishness on the parts of the carnally ambitious made the temptation to sacrifice them too strong to resist. There is a vast difference between humbly seeking to promote the cause of Christ and ambitiously seeking to promote himself, at the cost of others. Any professed Christian who has taken the “death-route” to the crucifixion of carnality, is delivered from all such selfish and carnal ambitions.

How far down that road anyone can go with his eyes wide open and have any hope of ever getting back to God--God only knows. The fact that some seem to no longer have convictions against the mortal wrongs they have done to others, and no God-given urge to make wrongs right, is conclusive evidence that all of their professing to be a Christian *are fraudulent*.

Being able to preach great sermons doesn't necessarily prove anything about the spiritual state of the person preaching. The reason for this is that God honors His Word, and "...the gifts and calling of God are without repentance" (Rom. 11:29). This passage means that God will not revoke a gift or calling, which He has bestowed, even though the party receiving such, has lapsed back into sin, and disqualified himself for answering his call and using his gift. One may lose his anointing and unction, but his gifts and calling from God will not be taken from him, even though they may be abused or abandoned by the individual himself.

There is no doubt but what many preachers, with their gifts and calling from God, have preached for years in a backslidden state, covered up, and yet God honors His Word, and souls are saved. To be honest, one must acknowledge the sobering fact that the roster of preachers from the day of Pentecost to the present time includes millions of poor, deluded souls who will never see the inside of the portals of heaven, because their hearts and lives are full of sin, and they have convinced themselves that all is well. The minister, or the high church official is no different from the most ordinary lay member in the church, when it comes to his personal relationship to God. He must repent and get saved just like anyone else. He also must "die out" and get sanctified just like anyone else.

And he must live right if he wants to keep it. It is very possible for a God-called preacher of the gospel to backslide and sin against light so long and to such an extent that he crosses the deadline, to the point of no return, and is utterly oblivious to the fact (Heb. 10:26-29).

"There is a line by us unseen
That crosses every path;
The hidden boundary between
God's mercy and His wrath."

The Man with the Broken Heart

The heart of Christ was literally breaking when He cried out: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold your house is left unto you desolate" [Forsaken of God] (Matt 23:37, 38).

Christ grieves over every lost soul. He "...is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

"I saw the blood drip from His hands,
I saw the sweat upon His brow;
His dying eyes were cast on me-
I cannot help but love Him now!"

REFERENCE NOTES

1. Dr. Adam Clarke's Commentary on Matt. 12:45: "The last state of that man is worse than the first."

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