

From the Study:

It was a hot Friday afternoon, and it was the wrong time of the day to be travelling. All those who had worked all day were either on their way home, or on the way to the cottage. The highway was crowded with cars.

Everything was alright for a little while, and then the traffic stopped. We sat for a bit, then drove a few feet, then sat some more. There was a 'bottleneck' up the road that had stopped the normal flow of traffic.

We use the word 'bottleneck' to mean anything that stops the flow. If you turn a bottle of water upside down, you can see that all the water cannot flow out quickly because the opening is smaller than the bottle. If you allow air to get into the bottle, it will empty faster. If you turn the bottle so much that there is no air hole, then the water has to wait a bubble of air gets in to let some water out.

Put a few sticks into the bottle of water, and you often find that they will jam up the opening trying to be the first one out. Sticks cannot think for themselves but people should. When people are so foolish that they are not willing to take their turn, the bottleneck gets worse.

When you are a long way from the bottleneck, it is a hard thing to be patient. You do not know what it is up the way that is holding you up.

In the work of the church we often run into bottlenecks. Everyone may not understand why there is a slow-down, because they are not near enough to the trouble. The devil loves to see the work of the church slow down and jam up the works so that it stands still. One person can stop a whole highway of traffic, and one person can stop the work of the church.

It is not long before that one person is put out of the way. You will find that the road seems very clean after you get through the bottleneck. It is then easy to get where you want to go.

Many of you people remember one of the bottlenecks in the history of our church here. When the church wanted to call Rev. Ethridge as the pastor, it seemed that a few men outside the church (hearing men) kept putting obstacles in the way. For a while it did not look as if it would be possible to have him here. You know what happened. Praise the Lord there is a way across every "Red Sea" of life, and through every bottleneck.

R.L.R.