

# The King's Highway.

## An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness.—Isa. 35-8

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### THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH.

The conviction that some great event is pending which will change the entire aspect of the whole world is felt by many. It is by no means confined to those who love the Lord and watch for His coming. Men of the world, while not clear as to the nature of what is to take place, feel that a change is imminent.

In the preparation, or lack of it, for this event are the wise and foolish manifest. Matthew 25:1-13 gives us a glimpse of things to come in the figure of the Ten Virgins going forth to meet the Bridegroom. Five were wise and five were foolish. All went forth. All must have made some preparation, all had lamps, all waited. But when the cry was made, "Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," five found that they had not been thorough in their preparation. They had perhaps not counted on such a long wait, and had no oil in their vessels with their lamps. At the crucial moment their lamps went out. A solemn warning to God's people is found in that thirteenth verse, "Watch, for we know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

Who today are the wise, and who are the foolish? It is apparent even now. The foolish are identified by certain marks, the wise likewise. The Bible here as in other things is an unailing guide.

Prov. 1:7 reads, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction." In every revival service the wise and the foolish are side by side. Some yield themselves to the conviction of the Holy Spirit and submit themselves to God. That is the beginning of knowledge. As they follow God they grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth. But the foolish resist the Spirit of God, rejoice in their own stubbornness and despise His wisdom.

God speaks to men in this time as in days of old. Job says (28:28), "Unto man he saith, Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." The contrary is accepted as true by the people of the world. They are more afraid of "posing as a little tin god," than of sin. They open their arms wide to body and soul destroying practices lest they be thought narrow. And they prove that they are foolish, for sin will be their destruction. Will they not then become wise? Never until they by the fear of the Lord depart from evil.

Again we read, "Fools make a mock at sin." Sin is a terrible thing. It has in its various forms slain its multitudes, both of small and great, of weak and strong. By its deceitful workings it has lured good men out of the way of truth. But foolish people mock at it and at the way of deliverance from its power. They "mimic it in sport." They laugh at those who sin against God as if they thought they were unusually clever.

Some of them cheer evil men in their rebellion against God, and congratulate them on their success in defying God's law and good men. But it is the "fear of the Lord" that "men depart from evil."

The Psalmist also says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and a good understanding" (success) "have all they that do his commandments." The adversary would have us believe that the reverse is true. He would have us think that to seek the Lord is childish, to trust in Him is an evidence of weak-mindedness, and that those who confess their sins and follow Jesus are lacking in spirit. Sometimes Satan makes men believe that it is necessary to violate the laws of God in order to succeed in business. This reasoning is widely accepted, and many live accordingly. From some the facts of disease and death has had to be cloaked and covered lest their sensitive nerves receive too much of a shock. Like little children they must be protected from seeing the world as it is. Yet they think themselves wise and deride those who have made provision for that which shall surely come to all living—death. The king of terrors is to the children of God a conquered foe. They can look the blackest facts of life in the face and maintain their confidence in God, and know that wrong must ultimately give place to right.

"Fools die for want of wisdom" (Prov. 10:21.) Ah, yes, they do! They die before their time because they have not the wisdom to turn away from sin, and sin kills. Disease follows in the path of evil-doing, and the wages of sin is death." Premature death and eternal death are both the result of sin. But of the man who loves Him, God says, "Because he hath set his love upon me \* \* \* with long life will I satisfy Him." "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Those who in the face of such instruction will choose death—what can you expect of them? They will certainly not be found among those who have made adequate preparation for the change that is coming upon the earth.

Sometimes we wonder how men can refuse God's loving-kindness, His offered mercy. The secret is, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." It is not necessary to lecture about infidelity, to teach it, to talk about it; folly is manifest in those who merely think it in their hearts. "As he thinketh in his heart, so is he." And he will live as if God is not, as if there is no judgment, no retribution in the world to come. We are prepared then to read, "They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." Romans confirms the statement: "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." If they sought the Lord He would be found of them, and they would receive understanding to turn away from evil. If they did not say in their hearts, "There is no God," the fear of the Lord would come up

on them. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." "The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."

Those in whom the marks of folly are manifest on every other occasion, can scarcely hope to be wise in their latter end. Momentous occasions do not make men wise. They only give opportunity for wise men to prove themselves so. If all their practices are foolish, if they will not avail themselves of opportunities to acquire wisdom, if they will not make provision to escape eternal death, how can they hope to have eternal life?

Jesus commanded His disciples to watch. Some have tried to fix the day of His coming that they might make preparation against that time. Perhaps they feel it is too much trouble for them to live a life of watchfulness and be prepared constantly. Yet that is what Jesus enjoined. Had he meant otherwise He would not have counseled His disciples to watchfulness in the beginning of the Christian era. The Spirit of watchfulness makes for strong Christian character, and is a protection against the sins which destroy spiritual life. Those who live in constant expectation of the coming of the Lord will not be easily drawn aside into worldliness and sin.

Some tell us to keep busy for the Lord and our souls will be safe. There is danger in that position. Paul felt it. He was always busy about the Lord's work. His very life was wrapped up in it. But he said, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I. Cor. 9:27). He did not permit his natural inclinations to come between him and God. The way is strewn with the wrecks of those who have failed to keep watch, and have been led into error, into false doctrines, into self-ease and indifference. Some have trusted past experience, past blessing, and failed to wait upon God for a daily renewing of their spiritual man. Once they were spiritual, once their messages brought food to hungry souls; but they thought they had learned "how to preach" and that there was no need of prayerful study and earnest waiting upon God for power and unction.

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, those who failed in preparedness were shut out. They did not see the Bridegroom, they did not partake of the feast. They knocked for admission, but the answer they received was, "I know you not." It must have been a disappointment, and one for which there was no remedy. There was no second opportunity. Now is the time to see that everything that hinders the Spirit of God is forsaken. Those who fail in this will be like the foolish virgins; the tests of life will find them unprepared, death will come to them as an enemy, or should Jesus come ere death overtakes them, they will not be ready.—A. L. D. in Good Tidings.