

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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WHAT OF THE NIGHT?

By Rev. W. Edmund Smith

Text: Isa. xxi:ii—Watchman, what of the night!

The question, Is the world growing better or worse? is often discussed. There are those who paint the situation in rosy colors and say, without reservation, "Yes, the world is rapidly improving. I am an optimist and refuse to throw away the doughnut because there may be a hole in it. I eat the food part and don't worry about the hole." Such people call all those who differ from them, pessimists, who always look down at the mud instead of looking up at the sunshine.

I contend that he who fully believes in the eternal sovereignty of God, which is consistent with the free moral agency of man, can never be a black pessimist. But he must take account of the evil as well as the good, and the former often seems more dominant than the latter; and it has ever been so since the fall of man. But in the midst of the ebb and flow of the evil and the good, the trusting child of God never believes that right though worsted wrong will triumph." Amid all the evil, when bad men and seducers wax worse and worse, when God's law is set at nought, when materialism and rationalism are making such a clamor that the voice of God is scarcely heard, the child of God still sings, "God is still on the throne." He knows that God has great eternal purposes that are to be consummated in spite of all the opposition of Earth and Hell. Man by his free moral agency may frustrate God's purpose in his own life, and do much to hinder the onward march of God's kingdom, but God still marches on. An individual of great influence and power may fail Him, a church raised up to spread holiness may fail Him, a nation chosen to be the spiritual almoners of the Earth may fail Him, but God is never discouraged. His truth keeps marching on.

"Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne,
But the scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim unknown
Standeth God within the shadows keeping watch above His own."

It has ever been thus, and ever will be, till eventually He shall reign whose right it is

to reign from the rivers to the ends of the earth. The thrones of earthly kings and potentates have crumbled to the dust, and all their pomp is one with that of Ninevah and Tyre. But we have received a kingdom that cannot be moved; not of meat and drink, but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

A spirit-filled man is no pessimist, but he is a pep-tomist. He sits not supinely down and mourns over the desolation of things spiritual; he presses forward in the battle and sings.

For right is right since God is God, and right
the day must win,

To doubt would be disloyalty, to falter would be sin.

But in spite of all this, the child of God must take issue with these rosy optimists, for he sees their optimism built upon a most superficial foundation. These see in the scientific and material progress, the ushering in of the millenium. "Look," say they, "at our standard of living, and all the creature comforts and advantages we enjoy. You folks ought to go to heathen lands and live. We have reached the land of corn and wine in all these up-to-date comforts in our domestic, industrial and intellectual life."

Well, I am no ascetic. I am glad to say that I really enjoy the physical and material comforts of the present day, and I see in these a by-product of our Christianity. I cannot think of the radio, the automobile, the telephone and the fast express train, and all the other wonderful things of this day and age, apart from the goodness and the wisdom of God. I for one, am sincerely thankful that I struck this planet when I did, for I had far rather have lived my nearly three-score years in wonderful America than have lived all the nine hundred and sixty-nine long years that Methuselah saw in the land of his day. In all his years he saw only some tents and cattle and camels and sheep. Life was very extensive in those days, but it was not very intensive. One person sang, "Fifty years of Europe for a cycle of Cathay." So say we all.

Some of us have known something of the rough edge of life. I am glad that my children have not had to go through some of the things that I had to meet when a child. I lived in a place where it was a struggle for existence. There were few luxuries. We had enough to eat, and it was good hearty food,

and I will have a vivid memory of the good things that Mother made. But we had to face the cold school for a mile and a half without overcoat, when the mercury was twenty-five below zero. Froze our ears, nose and cheeks. Men and little was thought of it. Lived in an old house and slept in the unfinished chamber where the snow came down beside the big chimney, and we could study astronomy by looking up that chimney. Times are better down at that old home now. The old house is gone and a good new one has taken its place. And the improved condition in our old home are also seen in most of the homes around. Everywhere there is seen material comfort, and where it does not exist there has been a lack of industry and sobriety.

I must say that I firmly believe the more salvation we have, the greater the joy and satisfaction we may have in the material blessings of life. Did not Paul say all are yours? What did he mean by that? Why that you have the capacity to appreciate and enjoy all that God meant you to enjoy, and often ownership of the thing is not necessary to its enjoyment. I have high admiration of a great farm with its well-filled and well-kept barns, and the splendid dairy that they house. I may enjoy that farm more than the man that owns it. The man with a beautiful garden may put a fence around it and warn me to keep out, but he can't hinder the beautiful perfume from coming over the fence and that is all I want. I can look over and see the flowers and smell their fragrance and it all belongs to me. I thank the Lord for the privilege I have had of seeing some of the great cities of the world. About ten days spent in London with Mr. David Thomas, a big-hearted sanctified business man, and mission leader and organizer, stand out as red-letter days in my experience. Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, the great British Parliament buildings, the London Tower, and the wonderful British Museum, Wesley's Chapel, Buckingham Palace, and many other places we visited in London, and we owned all we wanted of the whole thing. We felt like Bud Robinson felt when he visited New York for the first time. He came back at night to his room after seeing the sights of the great city and enjoying them too, and knelt at his bed-

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BEULAH CAMP MEETING, JUNE 27th JULY 6th, 1930

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