

# 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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"FOR WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?"

Rev. F. Lincicome

James 4:14. For what is your life?

1. *Your life is a probation.* A probation implies three things: time, choice and destiny.

1. Time is divided into three parts, the past, the present and the future. The past is a memory, the present is a moment, and the future is an uncertainty. The most serious thing about time is that it is so brief. The sum-total of human activity is crowded into three score and ten years. That is only seventy years; and when you consider that we spend one-third of this in sleep and one-third in infancy and preparation for life's work, it leaves a very small remainder of time for the real accomplishments of life.

2. The second thing implied in probation is choice. A choice is a momentous thing, for a choice results in an action, an action results in a habit, a habit results in a character, and a character results in a destiny.

It is *our choices* rather than our environments that form our characters and determine our destinies. Environment is a mighty fashioning, fixing force, but of itself never saved nor damned an individual. It did not save Adam and Eve—they had a better environment than you will ever have, yet they fell. How and where a person is born, I admit, has much to do with his career and may make it harder to do right. Life is a bigger fight for some than it is for others. Some of us did not have a good start in life—some were seemingly half damned before they were born. *Environment and heredity are great factors, but both of them combined cannot debase a man without his consent.* There are two victorious elements in the life of every person, namely: the *Power of God* and the *will of a man.*

Next to the Omnipotence of God is the will of a man. You are not a creature of environment. You are a creature of your own will. You are what you are because you will to be. Your will is the base-line of your character.

3. The third thing implied in probation is destiny. Whatever your destiny is, you carry it with you. Heaven must enter you before you can ever enter heaven. Heaven isn't something without you; it is something that is within you. The essence of heaven consists in doing God's will and that can be done down here as well as up yonder.

*Every man settles his own destiny.*

II. *Your life is a movement.* The law of life is progress or degeneracy. We are living souls never twice the same. We are incapable of permanence. There are two principles in every breast, a progressive and a retrograde; and when the progressive ceases, the retrograde begins. Hence we are going forward or backward, upward or downward. There are only two general directions one can travel—one is up and the other is down. The paths of life all run up and down and never in a horizontal direction. You

can't travel horizontally. No roads have ever been laid out in that direction.

So one of the first questions for you as young people to settle is the question of direction. Which way are you going? One way or the other, you must go for you can't work on a dead level. You will be higher or lower this time next year.

You have it in your power to decide the plane on which you will walk. You can live in the Dismal Swamp, or on the mountain top. You can inhale the poison that enervates and destroys, or drink in the **invigorating ozone found in the pure moral atmosphere.**

III. *Your life is a fit or a misfit.* Every person is designed to fill a certain place in life. No one person is fit for everything, but every man is fit for something.

Choosing a career is an important step with us, for it deals with the initial crisis in life. If we make a blunder here, we have made a *mammoth* blunder. Roger Babson has said that not one in three hundred has found the right job. Be sure to get into your right place. Some people do not seem to know whether God wants them to sweep a crossing or to run a hack. To be a college professor, or an auctioneer. Don't be a misfit, for a misfit always labors at a disadvantage, has a sense of dislocation and failure, and is never at ease. **80% of the inefficiency in all walks of life is due to misfits.** There is many a lawyer starving for clients, many a doctor with patients by the hundreds under monuments, and many a preacher preaching to a woodpile, that would have been a huge success at something else.

IV. *Your life is a relationship.* That relation is triangular. There is the relation you sustain to your self, the relation you sustain to others, and the relation you sustain to God.

1. That relation is sustained to self by **struggle.** Life at its best is a struggle. We struggle when passing out of life. We are natural-born fighters. We have to fight for an earthly existence, we have to fight for a spiritual existence.

2. That relation is sustained to others by service. There are two courses that lie open to every one of us—self or service. Self is the more comfortable, for service involves sacrifice. Don't live for self; put your life in italics and do more when you die than to leave a tomb-stone at your head and an obituary in the daily paper to remind the world that you have been here. So many are never missed after they are gone, because they lived so selfishly that no one has been lightened by the radiance of their lives, nor warmed or cheered by the fire of their friendships. The sweetest and best thing that can be said of you after you are dead and gone is not that you succeeded in amassing a fortune, but that the world is just a little darker since your light has gone out and that the world is just a little colder since your warm, loving heart has ceased to beat.

3. The relation sustained to God by prayer. Prayer is the Christian's breath, he who prays not breathes and he who breathes not lives not.

V. *Your life is an influence.* Everyone exerts an influence. Some of you exert more than others. Some of you are like load-stones that draw, while others are like loads of stones that have to be drawn. For you to exist is for you to do two things, and you cannot help yourself. The first is to radiate; the second is to be the recipients of radiations. What are you radiating? Are you radiating envy, hate, malice and impurity? If so, some people must be the recipients of those radiations and they will go a great way toward moulding their character and settling their destiny. Some one is bound to be fed by your fullness or to be starved by your emptiness. Some one is bound to be uplifted by your righteousness or to be contaminated by your unrighteousness. Everybody exerts a two-fold influence—conscious influence and unconscious influence. In the realm of unconscious influence we are doing our greatest work either for good or for bad. We are accomplishing a great deal more by what we are than by what we do.

There is no such thing as a negative influence. Every one is positive in the place he occupies. You are making the world better or worse by the life you live. The most serious thing about influence is that it is indestructible. What you have once put in motion can never be stopped. Your influence is as immortal as God—it will never die. Every person lives three lives. There is the life up to the grave, the life beyond the grave and the life of your influence after you are dead and gone. "He being dead yet speaketh."

Cain is still speaking in his jealous passion. Judas is still speaking in his betrayal. Dorcas is still speaking in her almsdeeds.

VI. *Your life is a failure or a success.* If it is a success in the highest sense, at least six elements must figure into it; and for a lack of one or more of these, many a person has failed in life.

1. Calculation is the first one I will mention. Jesus said if a man is going to build a tower he should first sit down and count the cost. Forethought is imperative before you take the first step in any path that opens to you. In other words, before you jump into the hopper you had better take a good look at the kind of grist that is coming out the other side, before you enter upon any life of sin you had better sit down and have a good heart-to-heart talk with yourself to see if you are going to be willing to pay the high cost of low living.

There is on record many a dishonest transaction, defeated candidate, possible suicide, miserable divorce case, untimely death and financial failure that never would have soiled the pages of human history had those involved first counted the cost. Count the cost in education, in

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