

GO FORWARD

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This is my first line to the Highway for 1937 so I wish all the readers a Happy New Year. My theme, "Go Forward," would make a good watchword for our new year. The words are found in Exod. 14:15 in connection with the history of Israel as they journeyed from Egypt to Canaan. A New Year has dawned with its possibilities and responsibilities. Humanity has started on its march through the year 1938 and must go forward. Christians are not only marching through a new year, but are also on the journey from earth to Heaven, and must go forward.

1. The first thing necessary is to get our position. Where was Israel? Israel was hemmed in with a strong foe in the rear, high mountains on either side, and a sea in front. But thank God there was an open Heaven above. Where is humanity today? Mankind is hemmed in by the Past in the rear with many memories that would try to entangle our thoughts and so bondage us to impair our strength for future usefulness. There are Present problems on either side and an unknown Future before. The upward look is still bright and the sky is still open. Where are the Christians today? They are still pursued by the enemy that would endeavor to entangle again in the yoke of bondage of sin, hemmed in on one side by the great Increase of Sin and on the other side by a great Decrease of Spirituality, and a Future before them still unopened.

2. The next necessary step is Preparation. This is true with a traveller on the highway, with a pilgrim in the year 1938, with the Israelites on their course from Egypt to Canaan, and with the Christian on the narrow way from earth to Heaven. The traveller should get the right Information at the Cross Roads and the information from the right Source. The first information is "Stand Still." Stand still so you can hear and think. Stand still until God can give His orders what He would have you do. Wait in prayer, faith and patience until God speaks. The next information is "Stand Still and See." See ourselves as we truly are. See if we have any sin. See if we have any lack. We should see ourselves emptied of self and sin, filled with God and salvation, and properly adjusted to God. See the salvation of the Lord. See a God who is more than a match for the enemy, a God who is bigger than our circumstances, whose grace can go deeper than sin, and a God who can make a way where there is no way. See the enemy no more forever. Good-bye Pharaoh and Egyptians. Good-bye sins that have been forgiven, cleansed and buried. It is important to "Stand Still" until we hear and see. Now it is just as important that we move. Action is imperative. The traveller must get the right Guide at the Cross Roads. Israel had Moses chosen by God at the Red Sea. The world needs level headed leaders under God and above all, the Christ to lead through the troubled ways of 1938. The Christian needs the Christ who trod the wine press alone to guide him up the heights to the Glory Land. He is the Guide that knows the way to the skies. He is the only One who can guide us to Heaven. The traveller must get the right Start. The crop grew for many days, but it got the right start at planting time. The engine travelled many days in the same course, but it got the right start at the yard. A young man is a well rounded Chris-

tian moving with regularity, but back there he got a start one day when Christ spoke to his soul. If 1938 is to be profitable it must be begun right. If your life is to count for God and your soul is to reach Heaven you must Begin Right and that Now.

3. The next step is Progress. Why go forward? God commands it. The cry of man's soul is "Forward," and the Christian must go forward in grace or go back in apostasy. How are we to go forward? In obedience to God's command, in humility, in faith, in fellowship, in confidence, in praise and gratitude, in prayer, in thought and deed. Where are we going forward? 1. From the point where God has brought us now. Israel at the Sea. World at the threshold of 1938. Sinner at point of conviction—Go forward repenting, forsaking, confessing, and believing. Believer at Kadesh-Barnea—Go forward consecrating and believing. Believer in Canaan—Go forward and take his Jericho. Each night should find us in a new camping place. Each year will find us in the hilly country of Divine blessing. 2. Go forward where God leads. It may be a pathway of duty, privilege, responsibility, or influence. In a path through waters or fire with God is safer than a path outside without God. 3. Go where His Light directs. Israel had the Light of the Pillar and we have the Lamp of His Word. We cannot afford to keep behind the light or turn from it. 4. Go forward. No chance for Israel to retreat. No chance for humanity to go back to 1937. There is no backward retreat for the soul that is going Godward. 5. Forward to a better land (Canaan; Heaven). Forward, at any cost, no matter what is ahead! It is worth all your effort.

What can I go forward in? 1. In an increase of Christian Graces (Love, Joy, Peace, etc). 2. In a manifestation of Christian virtues. Could we not be more patient, sympathetic, loving, long-suffering? 3. In performance of Christian Duties such as attending services and supporting the work of God, visiting and helping the sick and needy, and praying at home and in the church. Pray through into His presence, pray His presence down, or pray until you feel Him near you.

Conclusion:

4. Israel at the Cross Roads (or sea) got God's message, obeyed His command, made the preparation and had a glorious passage through the sea. His protection was wonderful and His presence real. They were so delighted over their great deliverance that they sang their national anthem as we find recorded in Exod. 15th chapter.

There is no way back to 1937. We are not serious enough about time until it is gone or nearly gone. We are the same about life. At the beginning of 1938 let us hear God's message, "Go Forward" and walk the 365 days with God as Enoch walked with God and lived to be 365 years old. At the cross roads we stand. We cannot relive our yesterday. Let us "Go Forward" as far as we can and then trust Him to lead all the way to Heaven.

Retail sale value of alcoholic beverages jumped from two billion dollars in 1934 to three and one-quarter billion in 1936. Every day the traffic is tightening its grip on the government and the people. As folks become "liquor conscious" the traffic grows more conscienceless.—The American Issue.

"The transgressors shall be destroyed together; the end of the wicked shall be cut off."

THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

You are making a wonderful journey, my friend,
Over landscapes varied and wide.
Through valleys where sunshine and shadows
are sweet,

Or with danger and death at thy side.
Sometimes over mountain ways rugged and
steep,

Whence a fall would bruise and mangle,
Sometimes through the jungle's tangle.
O'er pathway smooth—well beaten tracks,
Through forests, o'er prairies, past lakes,
Over seas amid storms or with favoring winds—
The journey of life you will make.

For the journey of life take this armour, my
friend,

Righteousness guarding thy heart,
The sword of the spirit; the shield of faith,
To quench all the fiery darts.
A girdle of truth about thy loins,
With the gospel of peace be shod,
Salvation's helmet upon thy head,
Praying always unto God.

Like manna from heaven in days of old,
Shall food for thy journey be given,
And water of life, the spirit of God,
From the rock of ages riven.

Let the council of God be ever thy guide,
And His Spirit all the way,
A lamp to thy feet a light on thy path,
'Til thou come to the realms of day.

And with courage, my friend, with unflinching
feet,

Let trial and temptation be often thy lot,
Be not afraid or dismayed.
For, hath He not said, "Lo, I am with thee,
I never will leave thee alone,
I will bear thee up, as a father his child
Though the way to thee be unknown."
And oft shall be seen, from summits of peace,
Far-shining against the skies,
Thy journey's end, in the City of God,
Thy home in His Paradise.—Sel.

AN OLD ENGLISH WISH

"Give me a good digestion, Lord, and also something to digest,
Give me a healthy body, Lord, with sense enough to keep it at its best.
Give me a healthy mind, good Lord, to keep the good and pure in sight,
Which, seeing sin, is not appalled but finds a way to set it right.
Give me a mind that is not bound, that does not whimper, whine or sigh.
Don't let me worry overmuch about the fussy thing called I.
Give me a sense of humor, Lord; give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some happiness out of life and pass it on to other folk." —Sel.

A NEW YEAR'S WISH

What shall I wish thee this New Year?
Health, wealth, prosperity, good cheer,
All sunshine, not a cloud or tear?
Nay, only this:
That God may lead thee, His own way,
That He may choose thy path each day,
That thou may'st feel Him near always
For this is bliss.
To know He rules, come loss or gain,
Sorrow or gladness, sun or rain,
To know He loves in ease or pain
IS PERFECT REST. —Sel.