

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. 40:3

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LIFE THE WELL READ BOOK

Rev. G. A. Rogers

We wish to base our remarks this morning on a text found in II Cor. 3:2, "Ye are our epistles written in our hearts, known and read of all men." These words were addressed to the Christians at Corinth by the apostle Paul. Our words are to the Christians of our Highway family.

The word epistle is defined as a letter or message. In the Bible we classify the epistles as letters or as books. In speaking of books we naturally go to the Bible because it is the Book, and because it is the best seller in the world. We rejoice that more Bibles are sold than any other book in the world, and yet we are made sad when we realize that many are not reading the Bible, the greatest of all books.

How are ministers and Christian laymen to reach the most souls? "Preach Christ," says one. Yes, but all won't come to hear ministers preach Christ. "Distribute Bibles," says another. Yes, but all are not reading the Bible. Many people that don't go to hear Christ preached and who don't read the Word, may be won to Christ through the "Well Read Book," "The Book of Life," read by all men. What is the Gospel according to you and according to me?

The world is reading our Book or our Life. Sinners can tell the Christian how he ought to write even when they themselves are not living righteous lives. Ministers are expecting their people to live well and write well in the Book of their Lives. Paul could call them his letters of commendation or proofs. Can we look to our Christians today "as monuments of His Grace," or better still, as "Living Epistles" of what the Grace of God can do in the life here in this world of sin? The world would like to see the Gospel of Christ lived out in our lives. God is looking to us. Is our life leading men to Him and to Heaven? Are we ashamed to have our lives written in a book? Remember that God is keeping a record. They are read more here than if printed, so take heed and write well.

The author of your book is whom? One reply is, "God." This is true in a sense. He created us. In Him we live and move and have our being. The Spirit of the living God writes on the fleshy tables of our heart. The Christian teachers and the Spirit-filled preachers write on your life. The fact still remains that we do most of the writing ourselves. We are dependent creatures, yet we are free moral agents when it comes to choosing between right and wrong. God may dictate, but we have to write. God says, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling: for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." We always note some things concerning the author of a book. Where and when was he born? Where and when were you born again? Have you ever been purged by

His Spirit and filled with His Spirit? What about your spiritual education? Are you growing in grace? Are you culturing your soul in right living by adding Christian virtues, by walking in the light, by perfecting holiness in the fear of God, and by allowing Him to preserve you blameless?

The style of your book may be a little different from that of anyone else. God aids you, but allows you to write in your own style or manner. Did Isaiah write like Daniel? No. Did Paul write like John? No. Your book will coincide with the rest of the great Christian Church like the book of Isaiah fits into the rest of the Bible. No two books are alike and yet there is no contradiction in the 66 books of the Bible. Give me 66 persons filled with the Holy Spirit and there will be no two exactly alike, yet there will be no contradiction. This was manifested by the 120 who were of one accord on the day of Pentecost. Inconsistencies and contradictions are not prompted by the Spirit.

Preface of your book. (Something introductory, written or spoken). Christ wrote the preface of your Redemption when he cried on Calvary, "It is finished." He spoke the introduction of my experience when His Spirit witnessed that the work was done. The preface to our Eternal life will be when Christ presents us to the Father faultless.

To whom is your book dedicated? My book is dedicated to God for time and eternity.

What is the introduction of your book? I would give in my own life something like this: The past is all under the blood. I am saved and sanctified by the precious blood of Christ. I am an open channel for the Master to use.

There should be a title to our book. We might choose one of many titles. We might choose one of the following: "For the Glory of God and the Salvation of Men," "For Me to Live is Christ," "God's Channel," or "Ambassadors for Christ."

What is the purpose of your book? The purpose of my Book or Life is to warn sinners of sin and tell them the way of salvation, to lead unsanctified ones into the experience of holiness, to edify the saints, to encourage the weak, and to write the best kind of a book I am capable of writing by the help of God. There is rising action in the Book of Life. It is a soul pardoned, purified, and finally glorified.

The divisions of the book of life may be classified as the Time. Years could be termed chapters. I have been a Christian for nearly twenty years. I could think of names for the different chapters. I would term the first one "Out of Darkness into Light." I might term some of the other chapters of my life "He Leadeth Me," "In Step with God," etc., etc.

Weeks or months may be summed up in a paragraph or it may cover a page. Is the page of January 1938 clear thus far? A day may be summed up in a word, sentence, or short paragraph. Each day puts something in your book. Did God smile upon your life yesterday and does

He smile upon your life today? No; I blundered unintentionally. Don't go on to the next page. Flee immediately to the blood before you write another line. Children, if you are reading this, I come to you with a suggestion, yea, a prayer: Turn your page of innocency over to Christ and He will enable you to write before sin streaks or blurs your page or life. I turn to the youth who have just yielded to the beginning of sin. Turn to Christ while you are young.

I turn to the middle-aged and older ones anywhere who have guilty pages of the past. I point you to the page of redemption. This page will cleanse your page giving you a page that is clean and clear. Though your sins be as scarlet He will make them as snow, though red like crimson He will make them as wool. Get to God immediately and get the pure page and begin writing. Write a few chapters before He calls you.

Christians of the Highway family, people are reading our lives, "The Well Read Book." We must face the record of our own Book or Life, because God has the record. Our book may be closed abruptly. Let "Ready" be the last word. The Master says, "Be ye also ready." The Christian life that is begun here will be continued in Heaven with immortal binding.

THE WISDOM OF SOUL-WINNING

The true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ loves his life of witness above all else. Even though it be understood that the Greek word for witness is the root from which we get our other word, "martyr," there is no drawing back from the glorious privilege of proclaiming Christ.

Great is the desire of the true believer to be at his work of making Christ known. Greater than Caesar was Paul when he spoke of his "earnest expectation and hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be life or by death." (Phil. 1:20).

Greater than the joy which mother and father have in holding their firstborn is the joy of seeing a soul pass out of death and into life. In the widest variety of sensation and experience, we have found nothing that can equal this. Correspondingly, we know no pity greater than that which we feel for the Christian who allows something to interfere with his witness. More than a hero could ever feel for the coward who would flee fight through fear of his own skin, is the feeling of sorrow for Christians who fritter away their opportunities.

It is God Himself who says, "He that winneth souls is wise," and when Caesar's statues have worn away to dust, "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." (Dan. 12:13)—Daily Manna Calendar.

Doing easily what others find difficult is talent; doing what is impossible for talent is genius.—Amiel, Journal.

Moses D Hillman, Jan 31