

The King's Highway

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Prayerful Good Wishes For 1944



TO ALL OUR READERS the Editors of The King's Highway extend Christian greetings and good wishes for the New Year. May the unfailing presence of God be yours through the days that lie ahead.



DEO VOLENTE (D. V.)

A contribution to The Highway
Rev. F. A. Daw*

Another new year dawns, bringing its regrets for the faults and failures in the unalterable record of the past, and fresh hope as we face the future with a firm resolve to do better.

Behind us lies a measured portion of life; before us an unmeasured stretch which may reach out to a considerable length or terminate suddenly just a little further on. The brevity and uncertainty of life, as well as the frequent, utter failure of human plans, are constantly brought to our attention.

Some years ago when the "Mainliner," pride of the U. S. Air Lines, crashed into the granite face of snow covered Chalk Peak, among the nineteen persons who perished were two motion picture men who were making a picture of "The safety of trans-continental flying." Death leaped out of the stormy chasm of the night and smote the plane with a force and suddenness that literally tore it to fragments. One moment the occupants rode in safety through the storm in the light and comfort and happiness of those who believed themselves secure, and the next moment the surrounding mountains seemed to fall on them.

Such tragic, unexpected ending of human lives and plans, such as frequently occur, adds emphasis to the exhortation of the Apostle James, to prefix the announcement of all our plans and intentions with "God willing" and to thoughtfully consider the question, "What is the will of God for my life?" While there are things in the will of God for our future which are hidden from our view, we would do well to meditate on those things which are clearly revealed.

It is the will of God that we should enjoy a present experience in his pardoning grace. There is, we are told, a place in the Pacific Ocean called the Nero Deep, which is 31,614

feet deep. If Mt. Everest, the highest mountain in the world, were dropped into the Nero Deep, the water would still cover it by half a mile. But more wonderful still is the truth revealed that there is a depth in the sea of God's forgiveness more than sufficient to cover the confessed sin of any life. "For where sin abounded, grace doth much more abound."

The passing years with their awful record of human ingratitude, unbelief, disobedience and neglect, and the consequent loss of participation in the wonderful provisions of the atonement, have not diminished in any degree God's power and willingness to save to the uttermost—from the uttermost—all who come unto him by faith in Christ Jesus.

Nor is it enough that we were converted some time in the past; it is God's will that we have the witness of the Spirit to our present acceptance with Him, and actually experience now the "law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus," making us "free from the law of sin and death." Having made sure of the foundation of our Christian experience, it is God's will that we "go on to perfection." "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification."

"Christian perfection," says Samuel Chadwick, "is the surrender to, acceptance of, and efficiency in, all the will of God. It is not the attainment of some mystical ecstasy or the achievement of some heroic sacrifice, but just the doing of the will of God out of a pure heart." Nothing is more clearly revealed than the will of God that we be so cleansed and so consecrated and so indwelt by the Holy Spirit as to be made perfect in every good work to do His will, and that our whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord.

Along the divinely ordered pathway is to be found divinely promised power. For "Faithful is He that calleth you who also will do it." As His plenteous grace covers all our sins, so His exceeding great and precious promises cover all our need. And we through

faith and patience may inherit the promises.

We must not imagine that our pilgrim journey is to be a flower strewn pathway of ease. There will be subtle and powerful spiritual foes to face; there will often be the need in the midst of heaviness through manifold temptations and perplexing problems to gird up the loins of our mind, and be sober." We must go forth, but we do not need to go in our own strength; we may go as David purposed "In the strength of the Lord God."

The New Year season may very properly be a time for chastened, humble retrospect, and introspect; but we must not occupy all our time thus, for it can be a time of new beginnings and of glorious prospect.

There is one sure inheritance in the beneficent will of God, from which we may draw a sufficient portion, whatever our need may be. So,—

"Stand out in the sunlight of promise, forgetting

Whatever the past held of sorrow or wrong: We waste half our time in a useless regretting;

We sit by old tombs in the dark far too long.

"Have you missed in your aim? Well, the mark is still shining!

Did you faint in the race? Well, take breath for the next!

Did the clouds drive you back? Well, see yonder their lining!

Were you tempted and fell? Let it serve for a text.

"As each day hurries past let it join the procession

Of skeleton shapes that march down to the past;

While you take your place in the line of progression,

With you feet on the Path, and your face to the blast."

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