



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.”

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OUR INHERITANCE IN CHRIST

W. Edmund Smith

Text: Ephesians I:IV. Last two words, “IN CHRIST”.

This is a small text of two words but perhaps the most wonderful in all the New Testament as to its significance. It is the Alpha and the Omega of divine revelation. It is the favorite phrase of Paul and sums up all his matchless descriptions of the plenitude of divine grace. This text puts both arms around John 3:16 and takes that miniature Bible all in. God in Christ reconciling the world unto himself; we in Christ as sons of God and joint heirs with Jesus.

Truly in Christ heaven was brought down to earth the very bosom of God was unfolded to sinful man to show the mercy and the grace of a God seeking for lost humanity. Yes, it brings heaven down to earth and lifts sinful man, redeemed by divine grace, up to heaven, and makes him sit together with prophets priests and kings in heavenly places. If you and I fully realize all that being in Christ may mean to us, then we are no longer doing business on a small capital, barely making both ends meet; we are spiritual millionaires with plenty of ready cash, and so much reserve in the bank of divine grace we feel in no danger of overdrawing our accounts.

The other day an Englishman visiting our church, told me of an English holiness leader, who when he wants a certain evangelist from this country to come over and give him a boost, sends a signed check, the amount to be made out at the discretion of the receiver. He can make it as big as he likes and it will be honored. That old song on the “Bank of Heaven” tells us that the divine banker is grieved at the small amounts we ask for. He gives us a blank check with his signature and asks faith to fill it in.

If we realize the richness of this text we shall no longer be limping along at a cold dying rate, mourning over joys departed, and complaining at the heaviness of the load, and the dreariness of the way. We shall be marching to music like the redeemed of the Lord, whom the prophet saw coming to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. If we live in the center of this text, we shall not be mourning over our weakness to overcome our adversaries, for in Him we are more than conquerors; in him we have one who cried “fear not I have overcome the world;” in him we have one greater than he that is in the world; in and through Him we can shout “I can do all things”—all things that God expects and commands me to do. In Him dwelt all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and in Him I have a full, complete and perfect salvation, which is made possible in salvation from all sin now and has the promise of future deliverance from this body of my humiliation, when this mortal shall put on immortality.

Truly in Christ we have found a treasure land; yea a mountain of untold wealth. Down on the veldts of Johannesburg at one time, all that land looked waste and barren. There was no beauty that would incline one to choose that as a place for habitation. No beauty that one should desire it—only roots out of dry ground. But wait! Under that rough and uncomely appearance was discovered the diamond mines of fabulous wealth.

Yes, in Jesus so many can see an uninviting exterior—Only cold hard historical facts; they see an uncomely man kicked hither and yon by his adversaries, faintly trusted by his band of ignorant and horney-handed disciples, and finally bowing his head in death with the shouts of derision of his enemies for a requiem. To the sceptic and the agnostic there is no power or beauty there. That is all a waste land to them. But think of those who through the ages have taken up their claim in the realm of grace revealed in Christ! They have found riches far surpassing those of the Kimberly mines. They have found wealth that can never be told; “riches exhaustless of mercy and grace; precious more precious than gold.”

In Christ they found the blood that washes from every sin stain. Poor conscience-stricken Lady MacBeath looked at her hand and shouted “Out damned spot!”, but the poet said “all Neptune, a flood could not wash away that stain”. At the world's parliament of religions, held in connection with the great Chicago Fair, near the end of the last century, the representatives of many different religions came and explained the philosophy of their faith. It remained for the mighty Joseph Cook to stand up and tell them that not one of them had a remedy for sin; no fountain that could cleanse the foul soul of man. But he triumphantly declared “in Jesus we have a fountain opened for sin and uncleanness. We have a cleansing stream that can make white the blood-stained hand of the murderer”. Well, the poet sing:

“No other fountain can for sin atone,
But Jesus' blood, O precious blood!
It washes whiter than the purest snow;
It cleanseth me I know!”

Yea, in Christ was opened the fountain of rapturous song. What a wonderful hymnology centers in Jesus! The saints become joyful in their Christ. In Christ Charles Wesley, Watts, Newton, and many other old-timers tuned their harps and gave us songs sweeter than those the angels sing. They sang of “Love divine all loves excellings”; they sang “There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins”. They sang of mercy, grace, conflict, sorrow, turned to joy; they sang of death with a faith that looked through the tomb to the other side and they anticipated the songs we shall sing in heaven. A humble little housewife, who never thought she had any peculiar gifts, took up her claim in

Christ. And immediately he opened in her soul a fountain of music and poetry. We are told that Mrs. Morris would at times be scrubbing her floor, when suddenly there was born in her soul a wonderful song; she would sit at the piano and words and music would roll along.

What marvellous wealth we have in all these spiritual songs! All coming to us through Christ and made beautiful and real to us in the measure that we dwell in Christ and He in us. I marvel at the wisdom of Shakespeare and his power to probe the conscience; I marvel at the imagination of Milton that expressed itself in language transcendent. These great minds make my little feeble mind dazed at their genius. But the blessed song writers make my soul abound with joy and exultation. The blessed Holy Ghost that inspired those songs plays them. I was tempted to call it on the piano of my soul; it seems more like a full orchestra—“joy unspeakable and full of glory”.

All this would be insufficient unless we have in Christ all that our soul needs and longs for; Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled. In Christ we have complete cleansing from inbred sin—deliverance from the carnal mind; entire sanctification. That is our inheritance; this is our High Calling of God in Christ Jesus. Paul says we “were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before him in love”. If we stop short of this we fail of the grace of God and fitness for heaven. In the Church often times, holiness is held up as an ideal to be aimed at and never attained. But in Christ holiness is not an attainment, but an obtainment. Jesus gives it to all those who are willing to renounce all confidence in the flesh, and all desire to follow the world, the flesh and the devil and really die to the “Old Man”. Yes, Jesus gives complete sanctification to all who will pay this price, which does not really buy it, but merely brings us to the place where we come with empty hands and take holiness as a free gift.

But let us remember we are in Christ by faith. “The just shall live by faith”. Jesus said, “If a man abide not in me he is cast forth as a branch and is withered, and men gather them and cast them into the fire and they are burned”. What an indictment against unconditional eternal security are these words! In Christ we are called to sacrifice and suffering—to fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ. As was He so are we in the world. The enemy battled him all the way through, so will he us. The temptations of the sanctified are terrific and their trials and afflictions many. But in Him we shout! Yea, we are more than conquerors. In him we can glory in tribulations. In Him we can thank God for the battle of life. Hallelujah! We do not sing in a

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