



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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CHRISTIAN CONVICTIONS

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Our dear Saviour is a great character builder. His redeeming grace is designed for that purpose. Christian experience is a divine process in character building. The best character known among men is that built by and through a saving relation to the Lord Jesus Christ. Christian character is the superlative achievement of redemption: men and women built into the moral and spiritual likeness of the Son of God.

Convictions are of first importance in the building of Christian character. They are like the hidden steel frame of a modern building: they give shape and strength to character. Christian convictions hold the structure of Christian character together, keep it from being torn apart in wreckage when the stress and strain of temptation and life's unpleasant experiences break as a storm over the soul. A conviction is a strong persuasion involving a feeling of certainty and an attitude of moral resolution. Christian convictions are produced by the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit; grow out of his use of the Word, of the good example of godly people, of the testimony and writings of people who have been taught by divine inspiration, the deep things of God. For the building of Christian character, one must have clear cut convictions on questions of principle and conduct, sin and righteousness.

Touching the matter of convictions there are four classes of people. The way they cooperate with the Holy Spirit, as he seeks to build their character, determines whether they survive or perish spiritually.

1. Those who never have had clear cut, well defined convictions. These are easy going souls. They have a knowledge of what is right and wrong, but they do not take life seriously. They hear the truth spoken, or read it in a written message, but they pay slight heed to it, do not apply it to themselves. They lack moral vigor to cooperate with the Holy Spirit as he would transmit knowledge into improved conduct and character. They drift along lazily. They lack definite intention, strong resolution, settled purpose, moral vigor. These people are easily led off doctrinally and ethically. They furnish a large proportion of our backsliders. Such souls are to be pitied more than censured. There is little hope of their making it through to heaven unless some strong moral shock arouses them to a realization of their danger.

2. Those who at one time had strong con-

victions on such matters as worldly amusements, modest dress, Sabbath observance, reverence for God's house, tithing, divorce, pure-mindedness, chaste conversation; but by neglecting the means of grace, or associating with those who are unspiritual they have leaked out and toned down to escape the reproach of godliness and become backsliders. For the sake of domestic peace, social approval, place, preferment, or love of financial gain, they have modified their convictions: they have pleased men at the cost of displeasing God. Poor backsliders, they have gone back into spiritual darkness. Only a relatively small number of these are ever recovered for few of them will pay the price to stay true to God. What a pity! They started well, but failed to cooperate with the Holy Spirit as he sought to build and maintain strong convictions in their moral makeup, make them strong Christian characters.

3. Those who have held onto their convictions, but have become harsh, hard and driving; gone to extremes beyond all reason or scriptural requirements of godliness. They are modern Pharisees in that they are sticklers for the letter of holiness, but have lost the spirit of holiness. They have become self-appointed judges in Israel; they bind heavy burdens of restrictions on others; they are austere and frequently swing the lash of condemnation; there is little of love, mercy or kindness about them. They do God and the cause of holiness much harm. This class furnishes many recruits to those cults which ride peculiar and extreme hobbies, or rally to those leaders who set up ultra-radical standards and preach a gospel of harsh sour holiness. What a tragedy! Only an occasional one of these are ever recovered and brought back into a mood where they will be teachable and responsive to the Holy Spirit as he seeks to build them into wholesome Christian characters.

4. Those who have sound, sensible Bible-founded, God-pleasing convictions. People who hold their convictions unswervingly, but keep sweet under opposition and persecution. They maintain a godly walk, a brotherly attitude, a patient and teachable spirit. They begot confidence by the purity of their lives. Cooperating with the Holy Spirit, he is able to build them into beautiful Christian characters, the superlative achievement of the redeeming grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is not enough to have convictions. Let us be sure that our convictions are such as please God. Then let us hold them with a right spirit and attitude. Above all, let us live them out to the glory of our Christ and the blessing of

those over whom we may exert some influence that will lead the lost to Christ.

LET ME WALK WITH THE MEN IN THE ROAD

By Walter J. Gresham

(In response to "The House by the Side of the Road")

'Tis only a half-truth the poet has said of the house by the side of the way;
Our Master had neither a house nor a home
but He walked with the crowd day by day.
And I think when I read of the poet's desire,
that a house by the road would be good;
But service is found in its tenderest form,
when we walk with the crowd in the road.

So I say, let me walk with the men in the road;
let me seek out the burdens that crush;
Let me speak a kind word of good cheer to
the weak who are falling behind the rush.
There are wounds to be healed, there are
breaks we must mend, there's a cup of
cold water to give;
And the man in the road by the side of his
friend is the man who has learned to live.

Then tell me no more of the house by the
road; there is only one place I can live;
It's there with the men who are toiling along,
who are needing the cheer I can give;
It is pleasant to live in the house by the way
and be a friend, as the poet has said;
But the Master is bidding us "Bear ye their
'load'" for your rest waiteth ahead!

I could not remain in the house by the road,
and watch as the toilers go by;
Their faces beclouded with pain and with sin,
so burdened, their strength nearly gone;
I'll go to their side, I'll speak in good cheer,
I'll help them to carry their load;
And I'll smile at the man in the house by the
way, as I walk with the crowd in the road.

Out there in the road that goes by the house,
where the poet is singing his song;
I'll walk and I'll work midst the heat of the
day, and I'll help falling brothers along;
Too busy to live in a house by the way, too
happy for such an abode;
And my heart sings its praise to the Master
of all, who is helping me serve in the road.

—Selected.

If you cannot come to Christ with faith and repentance, come to Christ for faith and repentance, for he can give them to you.

—Spurgeon.