



The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

Aaron Churchill, Nov. 51

ARE YOU CASUAL?

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Life on Earth is made up of a series of actions and habits which have to be repeated each day. A portion of every twenty-four hours is given to sleeping, eating, working, etc. We need to do these things in order to live. These actions are vital to our physical well-being, and must be repeated each day, so that they become habitual actions.

If this is true in the physical and temporal realm, it must also be true in the spiritual realm. There are actions and exercises in this realm which need to be repeated daily. It is tragically possible to be most habitual about such things as eating and drinking, and yet be most casual about praying, witnessing, and early rising.

God expects us as Christians to live a day at a time. Much of our failure is due to the fact that we do not treat each day as a God-given gift, which possibly may not be repeated tomorrow. We subconsciously live as though many more days are as assuredly ours as today; this in its turn affects our daily faithfulness to God. For instance, if we miss our quiet devotions today, we generally assume that we can make it up tomorrow; but tomorrow is not ours, and even if it comes it can never compensate for the lack of spiritual power which is the outcome of failing to meet God alone today.

There is a very vital relationship between daily faithfulness in our spiritual exercises and the coming of revival. There is no lack of prayer for revival in public meetings but one often wonders how many who pray these prayers are casual about their daily devotion and witnessing. The majority of us are self-indulgent when it comes to spiritual issues; we sleep too long and eat too much, and fritter away our time in unprofitable conversations and unnecessary pursuits. Most Christians would not dream of missing their breakfast if they got up too late rather than forego their quiet time. We are all far too casual about the vital things of life.

Let us consider a few passages of Scripture which emphasize the necessity of being habitual in spiritual things.

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits." Psalm 68:19.

God is most habitual in the way He bestows upon us daily His gifts. He never misses a day. If He was as spasmodic in bestowing His benefits as we are in seeking and serving Him, we should have been dead long ago. He deals with us a day at a time, but do we deal with Him on the same basis?

Are You Casual About Early Rising?

Jeremiah speaks about the prophets who rose early each day (Jer. 7:25). The secret of success in the lives of all who have been used by God has been the fact that they have maintained a living vital contact with God each day in the early morning, often, like their Lord, rising a great while before day to be alone with God. One of the men of a bygone generation who was specially used by God was heard to remark if he heard tradesmen plying their business before he was up: "Oh, how this shames me! Doth not my Master deserve more than theirs?"

Are you casual about rising to go to business? Don't you have to be there at a set time? How often do you start the day in a hurry, with very little time for God? Perhaps a hurried season of prayer, or even no quiet time at all. Thus you rush out into the day without the calm, the poise, the spiritual strength and guidance received in the secret place alone with God. The blessing of yesterday will not do, it is like the manna in the wilderness, it is stale the next day. God bestows His benefits daily, and the manna has to be collected freshly each day. The days in which we fail God are usually the days in which we have failed to contact Him in the early morning.

Do you indulge in the habit of a long lie in on Sunday morning? What a way to start the Lord's day! It is a fact that many church members sleep late on Sunday mornings, then they rise and have a heavy breakfast, and then they come to church half stupified; we insult God and the preacher by coming into the sanctuary unprepared either physically or spiritually, and the atmosphere is often heavy and difficult. Some good people are blaming the devil or even the preacher for this, when it may be more to the point if they examined their own hearts to see if they have entered the sanctuary in a casual spirit.

It may seem that this point has been laboured, but what follows is so dependent upon it that less could not have been said.

Are You Casual About Daily Praise?

"Daily shall He be praised . . ." (Ps. 72:145). The Psalm in which this verse is found is a Messianic one. It sets forth the glories of our wonderful Lord, and we are exhorted in the light of this to praise Him daily. Have we the daily habit of deliberately praising the Lord, not in any mechanical way, but from full hearts which have been filled with the version of Him each morning?

Are You Casual About Daily Prayer?

"Be merciful unto me, O Lord, for I cry unto Thee Daily." (Ps. 86:3).

How many times during the last month have you neglected the secret place? The hymn writer declares that "Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christian's native air." The spiritual life of many Christians is weak because prayer is not their "vital breath" or their "native air." It is the exhilarating air of the secret place that fits us to meet the emergencies and the commonplaces of each day.

Are You Casual About Searching The Scriptures Daily?

It was said of the Bereans that they were more noble than those of Thessalonica "in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures Daily . . ." (Acts 17:11).

Some Christians are like the camel in the desert; they live on the food in their hump. They feed on the Word occasionally, and then try to live on it for a time; they have not formed the habit of searching the Scriptures for themselves. Some are content with little titbits from Daily Light or some daily reading book; others seem to live on the promise box. These things may be right in their place, but they must never be substituted for the diligent searching of the Word for ourselves.

Do you appropriate Your Daily Portion Of Grace?

God has a special portion of grace and strength for you each day. He knows what each day holds for you, and he offers you an all-sufficiency of grace for all things.

You remember the story of Jeconiah in ii Kings 29. He had been imprisoned for thirty-seven years, and then a new king came to the throne. He released Jeconiah, and changed his prison garments, and gave him a continual allowance which was administered in daily portions; for we read—"he had a daily rate for every day, all the days of his life" (ii Kings 29:30). Is your failure due to the fact that you have failed to appropriate your daily portion of grace from God?

Do You Perform Your Vows Daily?

"Lo, I will sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows" (Ps. 61:8).

Have you made any vows to God which involve you in daily witnessing or waiting upon Him? Do you perform them each day, or are you always looking for some more appropriate opportunity tomorrow? Moody would not let a day go by without witnessing to some one. He covenanted with God to do so. How many of us let days go by without a word of witness? There is no wonder that revival

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