

EDITORIAL

"Aeroplanes"

Living in a world that grows smaller year by year because of the invention of the aeroplane, most people are becoming air conscious. Pictures of aeroplanes appear in various magazines, the daily newspaper usually speaks of air travel, hardly a day goes by without we see or hear an aeroplane passing over head. We live in an atmosphere that fairly is alive with wings. The mechanized wings of air travel cause us to realize that some of the impossible things of yesterday are the real things of today. It's possible to see the world now in two days!!! Oceans, mountains, forests, are no barriers before the mighty power of the aeroplane. All have faded into insignificance as the wings of modern aircraft fly high about them.

There are few people young or old that are not thrilled with the aeroplane. If you have been at an air-port you will know what I speak about. The nervous thrill that is set to vibrating as the winged monsters land or take off shows that flying is wonderful, both to watch and to participate in.

Keeping the thought of the aeroplane in mind we want to pursue during the next few issues of the Highway, the parallelism that exists between the aeroplane and our Christian life.

Preparation for Take-off

The aeroplane is a life-less thing if left to itself. It may look good, and feel good. The paint may sparkle, the engines be clean, and the tires have the correct amount of air-pressure. If we were to inspect the passenger compartment and the pilot's room all would seem to be in order. We would exclaim, "What a wonderful aeroplane." Yet unless some one who knew how to fly the aircraft got on board and started the engines and took it off and made it function for the purpose for which it was made, in a few years it would rot and finally perish. It would become a wreck without ever leaving the ground. Fit only to be cast away as useless.

God the great creator of man has fashioned us according to His Divine Wisdom. He has made us, not we ourselves. We have come from His Hand. The divine architect has made us in His own image. We have the semblance of life. We possess all that is necessary for the "Take Off." Our capacities and capabilities are all on board. We fairly sparkle with outward life, we have the energy and power that is necessary for take off, we stand with the breath of God within. We are wonderful aeroplanes—yet useless. We need a PILOT. Some-one to step on board and to start the engines. A qualified and well trained captain. Some one who can make adjustments, set the controls, and to touch the starter to enable us to begin to function for the purpose for which we were made. Christ is acquainted with the machine, well able to manage it on the ground or in the air. He is the rightful and only true pilot, it is essential that He be in the pilot's cockpit, and to handle the controls.

We have now the machine and the pilot, together they can take off and ride together

THE ETERNAL NOW

By Martha S. Adams

"I haven't time," I sometimes say,  
Yet I always have today—

Yesterday's forever gone,

Tomorrow may not ever come!

If this day were to be my last,

Would I take time ere it had passed

To read God's Word? To really pray?

Put first thing first, throughout the day?

If I knew this were my last chance,

Would I some dear one's life enhance

By a tender word, caress, or deed?

Or try some hungry soul to feed?

Lord, help me to consecrate all my time,

To fulfill Thy will divine.

Forbid that I should aimless drift,

Squandering Thy precious gift.

O God, I pray Thou wilt somehow

Help me to live "the eternal now"

So when at last Thou bidst me, "Come,"

Thou wilt also say, "Well done!"

WHILE I AM ON MY KNEES—

While I am on my knees, I find that too often I've just been punching a prayer-clock, and haven't really come into communion with God at all. I am sure that my creed is fundamental and orthodox. I am certain that my methods find the blessing of those who live close to God; and I am positive that my life is in harmony with Christian principles.

But—even with the Spirit himself bearing witness to my own soul—I sometimes find that my intimate communion with God has lapsed into just a form. I have gone through the motions of prayer, but I haven't touched God!

And it is while I am on my knees that this comes forcibly to my mind. Then it is that God is gracious to reveal my danger to me; then it is that the Spirit leads me and teaches me to pray; then it is that the Spirit prays through me—and then it is that I know I have touched Him.

I quietly thank Him for His great faithfulness, and I enter into that deep and mystical communion that only the Spirit can bring into my life.

Dear Lord, when my prayer life becomes mechanical, when my intercession has a form of godliness but no godly power, then it is that I beg of Thee to keep me on my knees. Keep me on my knees until I have prayed through, until I have come into intimate fellowship with Thee. Amen!—Paul Z. Hoornstra.

through storm and sunshine, clear skies or dark, and eventually together complete a safe journey.

The last thing but very essential thing before take off is that the pilot have the course before him. He must know the way, otherwise he could not reach the desired haven. A compass and a map are his two vital instruments. The compass is dead set for heaven and the course is chartered. His skill plus the obedience of the aeroplane to obey his commands make a Happy Landing a surety.

(Continued)

"THINK ON THESE THINGS"

There is a passage from the Word of God which should hang on the wall of every young person's mind. It would be a good motto to repeat every morning and to recall every evening. Do you have it as one of your reliable memory passages?

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things (Phil. 4:8).

This is a big order. But it is just the formula which is needed if we are to keep our minds pure, and if we are to keep them from becoming Satan's refuse dump. This is an active process of selection. We must search after those things which are true and honest and just; we must magnify those things which are pure and lovely and which are of good report; we must grasp hold of virtuous thoughts whenever they appear; and we must lend ourselves to praise instead of destructive criticism. We cannot do this without some effort. These thoughts are not going to dig us out and force themselves upon us; we are going to have to cultivate them.

And there is no way to disregard this principle and yet escape the disastrous results. We wonder sometimes why we are not making the progress which we feel we should as Christians. Frequently, the cause is right here, for the mind is powerful in the building up or tearing down of the spiritual life.

Let all of us covenant with ourselves and with God that we are going to let our minds be saturated with the thoughts which will be to the honor of God, which will adorn our Christian lives, and which will leave us with neither regrets upon our memories nor stains upon our characters.

THE UNCLEAN ATMOSPHERE

The task of keeping a clean mind is extremely difficult in the world as it is today. Modern youth must constantly breathe polluted atmosphere. At times we try to hold our breath; other times we try to imagine that the impurity is not there; but we finally conclude that we must face reality.

The conversation of school associates, magazine ads, billboards, talk on the street, newspaper headlines, and nearly everything we face today has its suggestive implications. Humor has degraded to vulgarity with even supposedly decent people sometimes betraying us. The entire day in which we live is saturated with sensuality.

But instead of absorbing this pollution or yielding to this pressure, the Christian young person must remain pure. It will not be easy. It will take diligence and real effort. But it must be done. We must have a set purpose to keep clean, and then fortify ourselves against every subtle and degrading pressure.

God has called us to be clean in the midst of uncleanness. We are to be as the lily growing out of murky, swampy water; and He has promised a power whereby we might be kept from the evil of the world. Let us set ourselves to fulfill God's purpose in our lives.