

WHERE ARE YOU GOING WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

By Milton W. Bagley

Some years ago there was a popular worldly song which contained phrases similar to the heading of this article. How these phrases portray the actions of the unsaved millions of America today. Always going somewhere or anywhere seeking the thrill of new sinful pursuits and amusements.

The trend of our time is to be on the GO. The sad thing is that many who are rushing aimlessly on have been lulled asleep by the infatuating powers of sin. God's word tells us that we are either for Him or against Him, in other words we are on our way to Heaven or Hell. To be sure we have used strong language but I am sure that we would rather face the facts than to beat around the bush.

There are some who would be neutral and they say, "I would never hinder anyone who is trying to live right." There is no neutral ground. If not for God then we are against Him. If you are not helping to propagate the Gospel then you are hindering the work.

Even as there is no neutral ground it is also not difficult to determine the line of demarcation between the Christian and the sinner. Modernism is attempting to bring about a fusion of sin and righteousness. However, the Bible which changes not, says "He that committeth sin is of the Devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning." Thus it appears evident that those who indulge in sinful practices are not on the Highway to Heaven. On the other hand, the Christian does not commit sin because it is the guilt and penalty of sin that he has been freed from, thus he desires to be no more entangled therein. Sin and righteousness cannot be compared but must be contrasted. Sin warps the mind, corrupts the morals, weakens the body and damns the soul; whereas the Christian life enlightens the mind, cleanses the heart and saves the soul.

Often we meet those who say they don't know where they are going. However, this is a very simple question to answer. I recall once when just a lad I was travelling through the woods. After travelling for some time I became confused and did not know where I was going. I was LOST. If you don't know whether or not you are a Christian then you are not one. The Bible says "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

What you are going to do after you arrive will be determined by the way you have travelled. If you have been travelling to Heaven then you will rejoice at the sight of Him who has saved you from sin. However, if you do not arrive at Heaven it will be because you have journeyed the wrong way and you will regret that you did not choose to go with God when you had the opportunity.

What are you doing now? You still have the opportunity to choose, for the Bible says that "Today is the day of salvation."

Where are you going? What are you going to do?

PEACE

Peace does not dwell in outward things, but within the soul. We may preserve it in the midst of the bitterest pain, if our will remains firm and submissive. Peace in this life springs from acquiescence even in disagreeable things, not in an exemption from bearing them.

—Fenelon

I Am Alcohol

Listen while I tell my story, for I AM ALCOHOL.

I have been a problem for human beings for a long, long time. For it is written that Noah got into trouble with me as soon as he had returned from the most exciting ocean journey of history; and one of the oldest warnings that men passed on to others was, "Look not upon the wine when it is red."

Men have tried all sorts of schemes to outwit me: locking me in basements away from the children or the weak of will; drinking me only at weddings and funerals; closing bars on election day; and earlier at nights, putting me a fixed distance from schools or military camps; diluting me with water; hemming me in by laws.

But all such things merely mean that lo, these many centuries, I have been hard to handle.

And today, in the freedom of this mechanical age, I am tougher and more dangerous than ever.

One method has not been tried yet; one generation of young people not learning to like me. With that I would be through.

This is my story: I ride behind the steering wheel in the nerves and muscles of the drinking driver.

I give him a false sense of his security and power.

I lengthen the time it takes him to give an answer in action to the danger he sees ahead.

Through him I scatter wounds, crippling and death along the highways of the world.

I undermine the prospects of youth, weaken the security of age, and destroy the happiness of little children.

I paralyze the moral restraints which men and women have built up as their inner protection against the evils of life.

I strike first at the highest powers of mind and body.

Thus, I progressively degrade men to the level of the beast.

Will yield my age-old sway over mankind only at the stern insistence of those strong enough to live without me and unselfish enough to deny me to those too weak to stand alone.

I AM ALCOHOL.
—National Voice.

HINDRANCES TO SUCCESSFUL PRAYING

Persistence in faith and continuance in well-doing links the soul to the Eternal Plan of God. Heb. 10:32-39.

Selfish motives, James 4:3.

Stubbornness, Zechariah 7:13.

Instability, James 1:6-7.

Disobedience, Proverbs 28:9.

Covetousness, Malachi 3:8.

Double-dealing, Proverbs 20:17.

Dissension in the home, I Peter 3:1-8.

Sins in thought and deed, Isaiah 1:15.

Unforgiving spirit, Mark 11:25.

The presence of any one or more of these elements in the soul will absolutely preclude the possibility of getting an answer to prayer from the holy God of Heaven.—American Holiness Journal.

"We pray best when we have searched His Word most."

LET IT SHINE

By Claude A. Ries

Just recently a good brother told me the story of the candle. It went this way. A candle lay on a high shelf, unnoticed, half-forgotten. One day the keeper of the house took the candle from the shelf and carried it up a long, winding stairway.

"Where are you taking me?" asked the candle.

"To show big ships their way across the sea," was the reply.

"But no ship could possibly see by the light of my tiny flame," scoffed the candle.

"Leave that to me," said the keeper as he carefully lit the lighthouse beacon and blew out the flame of the tiny candle.

Jesus, when He was on earth said, "I am the light of the world." Before leaving the earth He said to His disciples, "Ye are the light of the world," using the same word for light that He used of Himself. True, in size we may seem as a tiny candle to the big light in the light house but both are light and each has a purpose to fulfill. Forty times in the New Testament, light is used as an analogy of Jesus or His disciples.

The possibilities of a lighted candle are limitless. "There is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of one small candle." "Ye," fellow-Christians, students, alumni, neighbors, "Ye are the light of the world." Every thing that the sun is to vegetation and animate life, Jesus is to the Christian believer. And mark this well—everything that the sun is to vegetation and life, you and I, fellow Christian, are to be to lost and needy men and women. Jesus said so. Very pertinent is F. W. Robertson's question, "What reality is there in your Christianity if you look at men struggling in darkness and are contented to congratulate yourselves that you are in the light?"

An old Scot feared he might become like so many around him—dead from the chin up—that he daily prayed, "O Lord, keep me alive while I'm still living." Many professing Christians have no light of joy on their countenances, no light of graciousness in their manners, no light of loveliness in their daily living—revealing the fact that they are dead from the heart up. The one whom Jesus calls a Christian, constantly gives light, light in the home, in the school room, in the shop, in the social circle as well as in the church. "Let your light so shine."

We are no letting our light shine before men when we speak unkind and thoughtless words; when we show an irritable spirit; when we reveal an uncharitable attitude. We are letting our light shine when we "walk in newness of life"; when we "walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit"; when we "walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work."

We are letting our light shine when we return thanks at the meal in a public restaurant; when we read our Bible on the train; when we go to mid-week prayer meeting when the others go to the dance, or to some worldly amusement where Jesus couldn't be taken. Yes, we are letting our light shine when we act under a Spirit-directed awareness of opportunity to speak a word for our Lord and help a soul God-ward.

How can we keep the light shining brightly? Keep in intimate fellowship with God! Then let the light shine.

—Wesleyan Methodist