

The King's Highway

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Our Missionaries Speak



WORTHY CHRISTIAN

SERVICE

by

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It has often been quoted that any job worth doing is worth doing well, and to the Christian we have the exhortation of the Apostle Paul, "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called". In Phillips translation the thought is given, "live lives worthy of your high calling". Eph. 4:1. This seems like a big order. The word, "worthy", is humbling and we can easily become lost in contemplating its significance. While it is a big order and sobering, yet I think it becomes comprehensible when we remember that Christian service must always be viewed from two angles—that of the Christian's consecration and that of God's enablement. The first views the life of commitment to God, a commitment of purpose and of faith; the second views the grace of God that takes the consecrated vessel and fills it with His Spirit and concomitantly with His power and holiness.

Let us consider the first approach to a life of Christian service, that of complete commitment to God. Much has been said and very needfully to encourage us who would be "faint-hearted" Christians to embrace a life fully dedicated to Christian service. The Scriptures themselves leave very little place for a life only partially given to God or to service rendered only when convenient among other more dominating interests. Yet, sadly, the preponderance of Christianity falls into this group.

Even the life of the Christian fully consecrated to God is not immune from the subtle influences and temptations that would steal his affections and interests away from giving a complete service to God and place them upon the entrancements of this materialistic world. How meaningful to us should be the words of Jesus in Lk. 14:27, 33, regarding the condition of discipleship, that of leaving all else in preference to taking up our cross and following Him. This thought is expressed by Paul in these words, "that in all things He might have the pre-eminence." Col. 1:18. A life laid upon the altar and completely given to God is considered only "our reasonable service". Rom. 12:1. No, there is no room for a half-hearted Christian service. To live lives worthy of our high calling will require a complete commitment of ourselves to God.

But is this enough, we may ask ourselves? Are we now fitted for Christian service? Are we now capable of living worthily of our high calling? No, consecration alone is not enough, God must sanctify the vessel. It is the Holy Spirit living in us and filling our hearts that enables us

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TRAVELING WITH GOD

My plans were made, I thought my path all bright and clear,

My heart with song o'erflowed, the world seemed full of cheer.

My Lord I wished to serve, to take Him for my guide,
To keep so close that I could feel Him by my side,

And so traveled on.

But suddenly, in skies so clear and full of light,

The clouds fell thick and fast, the days seemed changed to night;

Instead of paths so clear and full of things so sweet,
Rough things and thorns and stones seemed all about my feet.

I scarce could travel on.

I bowed my head and wondered why this change should come.

And murmured—"Lord is this because of aught I've done?
Has not the past been full enough of pain and care?"

Why should my path again be changed to dark from fair?"

But still I traveled on.

I listened—quiet and still, there came a voice—

"This path is Mine, not thine, I made the choice;

Dear child, this service will be the best for thee and Me,
If thou wilt simply trust and leave the end to Me."

And so we traveled on.

—Unknown

WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

It is the sob of God.

It is the anguished cry of Jesus as He weeps over a doomed city.

It is the cry of Paul, "I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh."

Evangelism is the heart-warming plea of Moses, "Oh, this people have sinned . . . Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of the book which thou hast written."

It is the cry of John Knox, "Give me Scotland or I die."

It is the declaration of John Wesley, "The world is my parish."

It is the sob of parents in the night, weeping over a prodigal child.

—The Cumberland Presbyterian.

to render worthy Christian service. God has given us a high calling, a big order, but nothing beyond the scope of His Grace to enable us to do it. "Faithful is He that calleth you who also will do it." I Thes. 5:24. We are "laborers together with God". I Cor. 3:9. In a sense, as someone has said, the responsibility of our high calling to Christian service should be thought of as "our response to His ability" Then we are able to walk worthy of the vocation to which we are called.