

# The King's Highway

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### The World to Come

by Dr. A. W. Tozer

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It has been cited as a flaw in Christianity that it is more concerned with the world to come than with the world that now is; and some timid souls have been fluttering about, trying to defend the faith of Christ against this accusation, as a mother hen defends her chicks from the hawk.

Both the attack and the defense are wasted. No one who knows what the New Testament is about, will worry over the charge that Christianity is other-worldly. Of course it is, and that is precisely where its power lies.

Christianity, which is faith in Christ, trust in His promises and obedience to His commandments, rests down squarely upon the Person of Christ. What He is, what He did, and what He is doing — these provide a full guarantee that the Christian's hopes are valid. Christianity is what Christ says it is. His power becomes operative toward us as we accept His words as final and yield our souls to believe and obey.

Christ is not on trial. He needs no character witnesses to establish His trustworthiness. He came as the Eternal God in time's low tabernacle. He stands before no human tribunal, but all men stand before Him now, and shall stand for judgement at the last. Let any man bring the faith of Christ to the bar of man's opinion; let him try to prove that the teachings of Christ are in harmony with this philosophy or that religion and he is in fact rejecting Christ while seeking to defend Him. *Ipse dixit*, He has said it, is sufficient answer to all criticisms of Christ's claims.

Christianity has over the last half century been badly shaken by the criticisms of certain social philosophers. These gentlemen have assumed the basic soundness of the present world system. With a few improvements here and there, a prosperous, healthy and peaceful society could be established right here on this earth, and to do this, say they, is the whole duty of man.

These men were observant enough to see that their concept of a permanently peaceful world was contrary to the teachings of the New Testament, so they quite naturally turned impatiently from them. Unfortunately, many influential Christian leaders were not astute enough to notice the contradiction between the *IPSE dixit* of Christ and the doctrines of the social dreamers; and smarting under the charges hurled at them by the one-world thinkers, they retreated from their Christian position and ran after the social philosophers, crying, "Me, too; me too," in a frantic effort to prove that the world had misunderstood Christianity all along. In doing this they, of course, surrendered all that is unique in the faith of Christ and adopted an emaciated Christianity which is little more than a ghost of the faith once delivered.

Let no one apologize for the powerful emphasis Christianity lays upon the doctrine of the world to come. Right there lies its immense superiority to everything

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### Beulah-on-the-St. John

As far as the eye can see

Of blue water,

Green foliage,

And blue-green rolling hills.

As far as the ear can hear

Of splashing waves,

Rustling branches,

And white-throats' long drawn song.

All that the body can feel

Of warm sunshine,

Caressing breeze,

And pebbles smooth in sand.

As much as the heart can hold

Of bright beauty,

Sweet peace, pure joy,

And God's heaven here on earth.

Helen R. Sullivan

Beulah Beach

July, 1962

else within the whole sphere of human thought or experience. When Christ arose from death and ascended into heaven, He established forever three important facts, namely: that this world has been condemned to ultimate dissolution, that the human spirit persists beyond the grave, and that there is indeed a world to come.

There is about the Christian faith a quiet dogmatism, a cheerful intolerance. It feels no need to appease its enemies or compromise with its detractors. Christ came from God, out of eternity, to report on the things He had seen and heard, and to establish true values for the confused human race. Then He drew a line between this world and the world to come, and said, in effect, Choose ye this day." The choice is between an earthly house which we can at best inhabit but a little while, and the house of the Lord where we may dwell forevermore.

The Christian faith engages the profoundest problems the human mind can entertain, and solves them completely and simply by pointing to the Lamb of God. The problems of origin and destiny have escaped the philosopher and the scientist, but the humblest follower of Christ knows the answer to both. "In the beginning" found Him there at the creation of all things, and "the world to come" will find Him there at their regeneration.

The Church is constantly being tempted to accept this world as her home, and sometimes she has listened to the blandishments of those who would woo her away and use her for their own ends. But if she is wise, she will consider that she stands in the valley between the mountain peaks of eternity past, and eternity to come. The past is gone forever, and the present is passing, as swift as the shadow on the sundial of Ahaz. Even if the earth should continue a million years, not one of us could stay to enjoy it. We do well to think of the long tomorrow.

Toward the world to come we are all headed. How

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