

THE ROYAL HIGHWAY ... or milestones on the road to heaven
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(EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS)

The epistle to the Hebrews was written to help people whose faith had been rudely shaken. Why should saints be fed to hungry lions if their new faith pleased God? If the new High Priest had superseded the old, why did He not intercede more effectively, and so prevent the catastrophes which were overwhelming the Church? The epistle to the Hebrews answered these questions, and set forth clearly the benefits of the "better covenant." Its appeals were concise and thought-provoking, and when viewed together they provide a comprehensive view of the requirements of the Christian faith.

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest "-Hebrews 4:11

There remaineth therefore a rest for the people of God," and every saint should persistently strive toward the desired goal. The path may be difficult ; but with tenacity of purpose, men must strive to reach the ultimate haven. Israel had failed in their quest, and their dismal effort should serve as a warning to the Church. When the glorious land of Canaan lay before them, they had permitted unbelief to blind their eyes, and consequently had perished in the wilderness.

Let us hold fast our profession "-Hebrews 4: 14

" Seeing then that we have a great high priest ... let us hold fast our profession. For we have not a high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities ; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." The knowledge that the Lord has walked our pathway should stimulate faith ; and determined to hold what we possess, we should cling tenaciously to the teachings already received. Thus we prepare the way for further advances.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace Hebrews 4: 16

In this way we shall obtain mercy, and find grace to help us in time of need. Communion with God is indispensable if we are to advance along the royal highway. Prevailing prayer quietens the soul and secures the grace which alone can offset the dangers and difficulties of the path. A pilgrim who does not pray will become a tramp. A pilgrim journeys a tramp meanders!

"Let us go on unto perfection "-Hebrews 6: 1

" . . . not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God." Thus in one lucid statement the writer of this epistle provides a soul-thrilling glimpse of the upward way. John declares: "When he shall appear we shall be like him." Regeneration is but the introduction to the inexhaustible riches of Christ. Much, much more awaits the man who walks with Clod.

Let us consider one another "-Hebrews 10: 24

Fellowship with the saints is indispensable for the nurture of the soul, and to abstain from meeting with other travellers is both unwise and contrary to the will of God. They who would be helped must themselves render help ; that love might characterize the assembly, and that every root of bitterness might be removed from the hearts of all who profess allegiance to Christ.

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"Let us have grace "-Hebrews 12: 28

"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." When the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, therefore follows an outflow of reverence toward the Lord, and an overflow of grace toward fellow men. Only thus can we serve God satisfactorily; only thus can we adorn the faith we preach.

Let us go forth therefore unto him . . . bearing his reproach -Hebrews 13: 13

Sometimes the path of Christian service runs through enemy territory. We must expect to encounter great difficulties, and be prepared to withstand fierce persecution. The Master was often despised and rejected, and it is to be expected that sometimes the same fate may overtake His followers. Should this happen, we must choose " rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

"Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually" - Hebrews 13: 15

... that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." If we walk the appointed pathway, joy will overflow in our hearts. Then we shall be able to enter into His presence with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. This is the royal highway ; and happy indeed is that man whose feet never stray from its course.

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