

More and More

*But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.
– Proverbs 4:18 –*

Human existence, at least this side of eternity and from fallen man's limited perspective, could be summarized as a series of events which intersect with man's will, creating a tapestry of experiences and stimuli that influence the emotions and impact the soul. Man is ever reaching to synthesize the nexus between his intellect, emotion, and will in a struggle to own the controllable and mitigate the incidental in order to improve his condition. The post-Edenic world being what it is, man frequently finds the scales tipped in favor of the power of external forces, and over the course of years and decades, he discovers that life under the sun tends much more toward the forces of disorder and disruption than those of advantage and security. Disappointment, disillusionment, anxiety, concern, etc., inevitably become the more voluminous hallmarks of life. While the effect of these can be offset somewhat by such shallow things as creature comforts and worldly pleasures as well as more meaningful enjoyments such as the love and devotion of family and friends, at the last, all of these prove but transitory and temporal. Barring oppressive societal factors and in his intrinsic state, natural man's condition and outlook at birth is generally hopeful, but by the time he reaches his deathbed, no matter the level of attainment, acquisition, or accomplishment, the inward man is barren, worn, and empty.

The only remedy to man's hopelessness is the salvation offered in Jesus Christ. Those who possess this precious gift find not only an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading reserved in heaven, but also a reversal of the earthly life experience. For the Christian who has been forgiven of his sin and justified before his Creator by the precious blood of Christ, heaven begins here on earth – within his very heart. His Savior is his dearest friend and the Holy Ghost his infallible inward guide. He finds that life is no longer a mere series of ultimately meaningless exercises, but rather a chain of burgeoningly powerful moments, each presenting opportunity to further his renewed relationship with God and impact his fellow man for time and eternity. Life in Christ is truly thus an adventure, offering each believer a continuous parade of new beginnings and a vast array of ways and means to fulfill his purpose within the chronological confines of his re-birth and his graduation to glory. Prior to life in Christ, his days were marred and molested by regret, remorse, and fear. But now his path, no matter what it was before his conversion, has become one that is ever-upward, shining, as it were, and more so with each passing day. He does not remain tormented by memories of his Christless past, nor is he content to glory in bygone days of spiritual accomplishments since his conversion. Rather, like Paul, he forgets the things that are behind and is continuously reaching forth to the things that are before. He rejoices to know that his Redeemer always serves the best wine last, so regardless of what challenges or victories he faces today, tomorrow's promise is greater. And until he reaches that marriage supper of the perfect day, he is happy with each moment's breath to press for the mark of his high calling in Christ Jesus.

Brethren, our path is bright, and our eternal destiny even brighter. There is no reason for us to wallow or wilt in any distress, whether lurking, lingering, or present. Let us daily embrace the ever-increasing light of redemption-life, seizing each moment and finding manifold contentment as we seek, serve, and love this marvelous Savior more and more until He calls us home!