

done. And there are times in life when, pressed by foes behind and threatened by dangers ahead, we know not what to do. Every year finds the most of us in a number of seemingly impossible situations. Yet our experience has been that there is always a way of escape, often an unexpected way. When we are helpless, help is given; when we stand still, breathless with fear, the way opens.

There is a saying that those who think twice often fail to act once; and that may be nothing to their discredit. It is possible to be over-prudent, to have resolution stifled by reflection. Few are guilty of that. Rather do we rush forward without first standing still, without considering the end from the beginning. "Our indiscretion sometimes serves us well"; but many times it serves us ill. Before undertaking any enterprise, the Romans were wont to consult their oracles to learn heaven's will. Their practice has its lesson for those who own a better creed.

At the beginning of the Christian life, many are obliged to stand still before going forward. There is a way opened, the way of the cross. No deliverance is so marvelous as the loosing of a soul from its fetters; and those who have shared it take no credit to themselves. They do not save themselves; they are saved. Salvation, whether from foes external or internal, belongs to the Lord.

But the Christian life, once begun, must be nurtured "till Christ be formed" in us. How? "Work out your own salvation", says Paul, which, of course, is necessary. But it is not everything; for God it is who "worketh in you". It is He who sanctifies, making it necessary to wait as well as strive. When the day's ministry was done, Jesus was wont to retire to the Mount of Olives; and "it is enough for the disciple that he be as his Master."

There are times when the lot of many is hard and their cup of trouble full; when their days are nights and their nights are without a star, obliging them to stand still, helpless in themselves. But not for long. There is a way opened, a way of life. God is "a very present help in trouble." Therefore, will not we fear. Whatever comes, there will be a way of escape. "I will make darkness light before them and crooked things straight."

And this confidence in God, confirmed by countless deliverances, should banish all fear, even of death itself. The God who has been our Guide will not fail us at the end. "I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me." The way out will be the way home.

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The Right Way

By Rev. P. M. MacDonald, M.A.

In one of the stateliest of the Psalms, the theme is the redemption of the Israelites from Egypt. The singer says that God "led them forth by the right way." Subsequent history amply justifies this statement.

God's way is always right. It is not always the shortest, nor the straightest, nor the sunniest way; but it is always "the right way". This is the supreme concern. What good is there to be had by walking on a sunny and straight road that takes you far from home and friend and peace? It is the end of a way that proves the way. Whither does it bring you? Let it be dark and steep and rough; let the winds rage upon it and the storms beat there; let it wind and twist, it matters not, if it leads to the heart's true home.

The way from Egypt to Canaan by which Israel went was tortuous and torturing. What might have been accomplished in a few hours took years. Famine and foe ravaged the ranks of the people that were being led to the "land of milk and honey". For forty yearning years these weary pilgrims traveled the desert road before they came to their haven. Knowing all their varying and painful experiences, this word of the Psalmist seems strange. How was it possible that such a way was the right way? Well, "Heaven doth with us as men with candles do,—not light them for themselves." By these liberated people, God was going to found a nation to do a great work for Him. They were not freed to rush into idle ease in a fat land, but to serve the high purposes of God in finally carrying blessing to all nations of the earth. The tyranny of Pharaoh had crushed the spirit of these toilers. God needed a brave and independent people for His work in the land of promise, and so the right way to take