

Our Young People

Topic for January 15: "Where am I going?"—Ps. 119: 57-64.

"Lead me, O Lord, in a plain path."

Where Am I Going?

"Where am I going?" That depends upon the way, and the direction in which I am travelling. If I am in the narrow way, I am going to "life;" if in the broad way, I am going to "destruction," and the eight verses of our lesson give us some characteristics of the narrow way.

1. It is the way of obedience. "Thou art my portion, O Lord; I have said that I would keep Thy words." God himself is more than anything He can give us, and we should prize the God of love above the love of God, the Giver above the gift.

2. It is the way of prayer. "I entreated Thy favor with my whole heart; be merciful unto me according to thy word." Whole-heartedness is essential to true prayer, and in seeking God's favor it is worth while to put the whole heart into it. But while the psalmist thinks if God's favor, he is reminded of his sin, and that leads him to pray for mercy.

3. It is the way of truth. "I thought on my ways, and turned my feet into thy testimonies." Thinking leads to turning. Mr. Spurgeon says: "He came to the Word, and then he came to himself, and this made him arise and go to his Father." When the mind repents of ill ways, the feet are soon led into good ways, but there will be no repenting unless there is deep, earnest thought.

4. It is the way of promptness. "I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments." We need to be in a hurry about doing what God has commanded us. When God commands, it dishonors Him for us to hesitate about obedience.

5. It is the way of remembrance. "The bands of the wicked have robbed me; but I have not forgotten thy law." Though the robbers may take the purse from my pocket, they cannot take the law from my memory. We have known some people to turn from the Bible because professed Christians had cheated them, thus allowing Satan to rob them of a treasure more precious than gold.

6. It is the way of gratitude. "At midnight I will arise to give thanks unto Thee, because of Thy righteous judgments." After he had been robbed it would be natural to rise at midnight to guard against other robbers, but "he thinks more of thanks than of thieves."

David leaves the robbers in the hands of a righteous Judge, while he praises Him for His righteous judgments. Midnight is rather an inconvenient hour, but no time is inappropriate for thanksgiving. And in the midnight of grief we may thank God while we look up to the stars of promise that pierce the darkness. Such thanksgiving at midnight will hasten the dawn.

7. It is the way of Christian fellowship. "I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that observe thy precepts." He spends his nights with God and his day with Christians. He makes no distinction as to wealth or position, but delights in the company of all that fear God.

8. It is the way of teachableness. "The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy; teach me thy statutes." We never cease to be disciples. Natural law is simply just; you keep it and you are rewarded; you break it and you are punished; but the mercy of the Lord that comes to us through Christ fills the earth and makes everything in nature vocal to His praise. The Lord, who is our portion, Himself fills the universe, and He can at all times be of service to His people.—Christian Endeavor World.

For Daily Reading.

Mon., Jan. 9.—Fleeing from the Lord. Jonah 1: 1-15; 3: 1-4.
Tues., Jan. 10.—Arrested in the way. Acts 9: 1-9.
Wednes., Jan. 11.—Returned to the way. 1 Kings 19: 1-21.
Thurs., Jan. 12.—Guided in the way. Isa. 30: 18-21.
Fri., Jan. 13.—Light upon the way. Ps. 119: 105-112.
Sat., Jan. 14.—Christ the way. John 14: 1-7.
Sun., Jan. 15.—Topic. Where am I going? Ps. 119: 57-64.

Another Year.

Another year is dawning!
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year for Thee.
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise;
Another year of proving,
Thy presence "all the days."
Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Christ says, "I am the way." Wherever you are, at whatever point of experience, at whatever stage of sin, this way begins where you are, and you have but to take it and it leads to God. From your person, as you are at this moment, there leads a way to the Father.—Marcus Dods, D.D.

The Clock's Warning.

The clock in a church steeple in the city of Edinburgh was striking one night, when a company of young men was passing the church on their way to a place of sin. Suddenly one of them stopped and said, "I cannot go with you."

When they pressed him for a reason, he answered: "When I left my home in the country, my mother said, 'My boy, you are going to a wicked city, and your temptations will be strong, but your father and I will pray for you without ceasing; and at nine o'clock every evening we will be on our knees saying, O God, save our boy'; and," said he, "I will not break their hearts." Notwithstanding the jeering and mocking of his companions, he turned completely from his evil ways, and is to-day one of the Christian merchants of Edinburgh.

Timely Hints.

How do our pleasures show where we are going?

How does our use of money show where we are going?

How does our reading show where we are going?

How do our views of Christ show where we are going?

How does our thought of Sunday show where we are going?

What are some of the helps to keeping in the right way?

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