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“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord! They walk in His ways.... Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes!”
(Psalm 119:1-5)

The pedestrian’s benediction:

We are walkers, not riders. If we make progress we must put effort and labor into it. We are pilgrims, strangers, temporary residents, passing through a country not our own. Our permanent home, our final rest will surely come but not yet. Today we must walk one step at a time, with another immediately following. Each step must be gauged, measured, weighed and contemplated deliberately, for we are on probation, being tried, tested and proven.

As believers, we are “in the way”. Christ is “the way the truth and the life” (John 14:6). Previous to receiving the grace of God in Christ we were among that great company who have all “gone out of the way” (Rom. 3:12). This benediction cannot apply to them since they have taken the broad easy way, which is totally defiled.

The way of Christ is narrow, but not repressive; straight, but not dull and monotonous; difficult, but not grievous.

In this way, we each have our own particular “ways” (vs. 5). Each person’s walk is peculiarly his own. It is the way he does it. It is not necessarily better or worse than his brother’s, merely different. But we must be careful that in our own God-given uniqueness and peculiarity, our ways are ordered by “God’s ways” (vs. 3).

If that be true then our walk will be undefiled. It will have that stamp of Divine quality that we call godliness, piety. That is the objective if we are to have the pedestrian’s benediction. Blessedness is for those who are undefiled in the way.

The psalm now sets before us six means of realization of this blessedness.

Vs. 1. Each successive step should be according to the law of the Lord. Before I put my foot down I should ask, “Is this according to God’s revealed will?”

Vs.2 Treasure up God’s testimonies. Testimonies of men and movements and methods may be exciting, but they have no power to order your own life. Only that which has the force of God’s word can mold the course of your walk.

Vs.2 Seeking God whole-heartedly. Let us be careful that we do not pray admirable prayers for purity and godliness, secretly hoping they will not be heard. Such prayer is sinful itself and will insure defilement in the way.

Vs.3 Resolutely refusing any iniquity. If it does not conform to God’s ways, it is iniquity and cannot be a part of my way.

Vs.4 Assiduously keeping His precepts. Our own personal scruples and convictions, the mores of society may be set aside, but God’s precepts must be kept. Vs.7 Learning His judgments. If we would be well educated, we should be God taught. These judgments are right. They will guide our steps aright.

But let us not think that our resolve to do all of these will be sufficient. We have no power to keep that resolve so we must cry for God's enablement. He is faithful and will not utterly forsake us. -C. M.