

How to succeed in Life.
Prov. iii. 6.

Lessons.

Matt vi. 19-34.

Prov. iii. 1-18.

Hymns.

618 In God's holy dwelling.

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Prov. iii. 6.

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct thy paths."

Introductory.

Within the consciousness of man there exists a dual sense; that of limitation and of possibility.

In youth this is naturally full of delight.

The limitation is opportunity.

The possibility is everything.

In age when life has been wasted the sense is that of despair.

The limitation is everything.

The possibility is gone.

That is true age, in which the youthful heart still lives, because the life has been well lived.

The limitation is growing less.

The possibility is growing more.

(1)

It is certainly a Divine arrangement that the young should

see visions.

Build castles in the air.

Aspire after success.

"How beautiful is youth! how bright it gleams
With its illusions, aspirations, dreams!"

Book of beginnings, story without end,
Each maid a heroine, & each man a friend!

Aladdin's lamp, & Fortunatus' purse,
That holds the treasures of the universe!

All possibilities are in its hands,

No danger daunts it, & no foe withstands;

In its sublime audacity of faith,

"Be thou removed!" it to the mountain saith

And with ambitious feet, secure & proud,
Ascends the ladder, leaning on the cloud."

These visions are of distant matters,
& sometimes are never reached
& realized, through failure to
discover the paths that lead to
them.

The mountain height, & the path
that leads to it.

There may be much effort put forth
without highest results, because
the laws of action are not dis-
covered.

(2)

By all means have the ambition that aims at the high, yea at the highest; but do not neglect the responsibility of the present moment.

It is in order that I may direct your attention to that responsibility that I have taken this text.

The appeal is to those who have a goal in sight, & declares the abiding condition upon which the pathway that lead to the goal may be discovered.

The whole text conditions life at the present moment; & so conditions it for its progress to consummation.

Let us consider.

A. The Injunction

B. The Promise.

A. The Injunction.

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him".

↓ General Notes.

This is a comprehensive word, recalling us at every point of our lives from Atheism.

There is a very practical & wide-spread atheism which would very much resent the term.

It is a remarkable thing that the apostle Paul connects it with the death of this very principle of hope "Atheists & without hope".

There can be no continuance of hope, & therefore no realization of ideals apart from the perpetual acknowledgment of God.

II. Analysis.

i. Definition.

a. The first idea of the word "acknowledge" is to "see Him"; & recalls us to the recognition of the presence of God at every point of our lives.

1. Recognition of existence producing fear
2. Acceptance of claim producing obedience
3. Belief in interest producing prayer.

b. This also ensures the use of all His gifts; & that within the sphere of His will.

1. Christ's teaching in Matt: vi.
2. Every possibility of brain, & hand, & tongue to be used.

Mountain removed by faith that it is there.

ii. Application.

a. Home.

1. The homes in which we sojourn.
Recognition of His goodness & representative authority.
2. The homes you will make.
Marriage.

b. Business.

1. Seek His guidance in a choice.
2. Master every detail.

c. Recreation.

1. None that dulls your perception of God.
2. None that ministers harm to others.

iii. Measure.

"All thy ways".

Do that nothing can be added.

B. The Promise.

"He shall direct thy paths."

v. General Notes.

This promise calls for the exercise of faith.

Our one responsibility is that of obedience to the condition

The guidance of God is discoverable in all retrospection.

He directs

By obstacles.

By clearing of obstacles.

By delay.

By immediateness

By opposition

By encouragement.

By disappointment

By realization.

↓ Analysis.

i. Personality. "HE"

a. The Father's love.

1. No evil befall.
2. No enemy may the end.

b. The Power of God.

1. No obstacle hinder.
2. No opposition overcome.

c. The Wisdom of God.

1. No exigencies overwhelm.
2. No surprises prevent.

ii. Deductions.

a. Paths will be right.

Not always easy or pleasant.

b. Paths will be best.

Not always the chosen.

c. Paths will lead to success.

Not always to fame.

Conclusion.

How much that is called success is
dire failure?

These conditions may put limitation
upon material success!

The final test is beyond the things
of time & sense.

The Test of fire!

The present possibility

The first step.

Surrender!

The new attitude.

Obedience!