

The Gate

ENTER ye at the strait gate; for **WIDE** is the gate, and **BROAD** is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

The strait gate is the path of Service or usefulness to others. It is the practice of unselfishness.

The "wide gate" and the broad way is the shady highway of Selfishness.

The path of Service leads to "life"—

The highway of Selfishness leads to self-destruction.

The "MANY" are about 95 out of each one hundred humans. The "FEW" are about 5%.

You know the signal of the football game of life—I but remind you. It is "54-36-5-4-1." It means this: Select 100 men, each 25 years old. Each is able to get a life insurance policy. This excludes the physically unfit. Select the 100 men from 100 different "jobs." Now keep tab on them for forty years, at which time each would be sixty-five years old if each lived that long.

The result is this—

54 are dead broke.

36 are dead.

5 are still working hard for a living and would be dead broke if out of a job for one week.

4 have enough saved up to be comfortable if careful.

1 only is rich.

54 plus 36 plus 5, equals 95.

4 plus 1, equals 5.

95 out of each 100 are "dead ones," either physically or economically, 40 years from their 25th birthday, and only five are alive and in the columns of economic success.

WHY—there's a reason—a very basic reason. The reason is the prevalence of the disease of Selfishness. This disease is born of ignorance of a basic fact. Yes, **THE** basic fact—the most basically important fact of all the facts of life—viz., the fact, that the law of the survival of the fittest is the law of the survival of the most Serviceable. Man inherently desires to survive. The law of Self-preservation is the first law of Nature. It always was so. It is now—it always will be.

Man in his ignorance of natural law has falsely believed that in order to survive he had to be selfish. But false beliefs do not change the facts of nature, and the **FACT** is that in order to survive, man must serve and a maximum of Service requires unselfishness.

Selfishness is justly termed a disease. It is a most malignant one. It is a cancer which is gnawing at the very vitals of civilization.

Its victims are legion. They include individuals, institutions and nations.

THE best known cure of cancer is radium—Nature's cure for the cancer of selfishness is the light of truth—the light of an understanding of the simplest yet most stupendous fact in life—the fact that the straight and narrow path of UNselfishness is the way to life, the way that leads to self-preservation and self-interest, while the wide gate and broad way which the 95% enter leads to self-destruction.

LET US suppose that you and I were to take a hike this afternoon. We start out on a level road and walk out of this town of Williamsport, Pa., where I am writing this article. In the environs of

this beautiful city there are many broad, well-paved roads. Some of them lead through shady glens, well-lined with trees, while here and there, there are mountain paths leading up hill.

Now let us suppose that on this level road you and I come to a turn.

To the left a broad, well-paved highway slopes a little down-grade with shade trees on each side the road.

To the right is a narrow gate and beyond the gate is a narrow path. It leads uphill. The path is stony and it faces the sun. And then too there are no shade trees along the path.

We are out for a "good time." We want to "enjoy ourselves."

Under these circumstances, which route are we almost certain to take? Will we turn to the left or to the right? Will it be natural for us to take the wide entrance and broad "WAY" to the left or will we naturally open the narrow gate and take the narrow path.

Under the circumstances described, we would naturally turn to the left.

And yet if we had positive knowledge of the fact that the broad road to the left led to the valley of death and certain self-destruction, while the path to the right led to "life" and to the goal of real happiness, we would most certainly choose the path leading to the right.

THE level road may be well likened to the journey of the individual through infancy and childhood, with its freedom from personal responsibility. We are all "out for a good time," we all want to enjoy ourselves.

The prime object of human existence is the attainment of happiness; the condition of content.

But few of us differentiate between temporary enjoyment and permanent happiness. It seems to us as we reach maturity that the gratification of the physical senses, sense indulgence is the road to happiness. It seems to us that the way to attain the good things of life is to be selfish.

"Everybody else is doing it." It **MUST** be the right way. So we turn to the left. We follow the crowd and in doing so we head ourselves for hell here and hereafter.

THE path to the right is stony. The sun is in our face. It's an up-grade; **BUT**—and it's a big **BUT**—but it leads to the heights. It leads to the city of success. It leads to the goal of making good. It

leads to the port of the progressive realization of any worthy ideal.

The journey is somewhat harder at the start, but it is much easier at the finish. And it is the finish of the race that counts.

But after all is it "hard" at the start. The wide gate and broad way of selfish self-indulgence and sense gratification is the road to flabby mussel, gout and a whole chain of evils.

The exercise born of climbing the path of Service to others means strength and the glow of health of body, mind and soul.

There is more **CONTENT** in the contents of an ounce of effort leading to permanent happiness than there is in a ton of effort expended to get temporary enjoyment

MAN has freedom of choice. He is free to choose the path he takes. He is at perfect liberty to take the left hand road.

If he does he will get "left" in the race for real success.

On the other hand he is free to choose the right hand path. It is literally the "right" way. He who chases the path of Service to others is doing right by himself and all those who are dependent upon him as well as doing right by all whom he serves. The path of Service or usefulness to the other fellow is the path to peace and power and plenty for all concerned.

IF PERCHANCE even one who reads this talk about "The Gate" finds himself headed for the valley of death on the "broad way" of Selfishness, don't get the flim-flams born of fear. Turn around. It's not too late. Right about face. There you are. Now forward! March!

March back, walk in the opposite direction.

Very soon you will come to the path leading to the right. That is the **RIGHT** path. The path of Service to the other fellow. The path of creation. The path of usefulness and remember as you turn your back on the ways of Selfishness and self-indulgence, that there is no sickly sentiment about it. You are serving yourself by serving others. Man must be good and **DO** good to **MAKE GOOD**.

And again the seer of some two thousand years ago stands out in bold relief as the Master teacher of all the ages.

Jesus was a Jew. His was the Master Mind on economics.

If you would arrive at the goal of making good, "Enter ye at the start gate."

Behold the paradox:

Self-less-ness is self-full-ness.