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Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

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## **The Highway of Holiness**

### **Isaiah 35:8-10**

What are we left in the world to do? After conversion, we could all agree with Paul saying how much better it would be to go to heaven:

***Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.***

***Philippians 1:23 I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far***

But yet, we are left here in a world filled with suffering and pain, struggling with sin, struggling with pain... WHY?

If God just wants to spend eternity with His redeemed in the New Zion, the New Jerusalem, why not just DO IT? What are we left in this world to do?

If the salvation of the soul is the point of it all, once someone has been justified through faith in Christ, what is that person left in the world to do?

VITAL QUESTION!!! What is the answer?

First and foremost, we were created AND redeemed FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

***Isaiah 43:7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.***

Two infinite journeys: Internal journey of sanctification, external journey of world evangelization

Those journeys are well attested to in the Bible... both are mentioned again and again... the best description of the external journey is in Luke 24:

***Luke 24:47-48 repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.***

Perhaps one of the most picturesque descriptions of the internal journey is in Isaiah 35:8-10

***Isaiah 35:8-10 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. <sup>9</sup> No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there,***

***<sup>10</sup> and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.***

The internal journey is a “Highway of Holiness” that every believer is called on to walk from the moment that he or she is “redeemed” (saved by faith in the blood of Christ)

It is a journey in that it is travelled over a long period of time... the individual believer becoming more and more conformed to Christ in holiness... holy in mind, holy in body, holy in lifestyle

Little by little, growing in grace, studying the bible, getting stronger in prayer, imitating Christ, putting sin to death by the power of the Holy Spirit... this is the internal journey... this is the HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS

## I. Context: The Transformation of the Universe (Isaiah 35)

### A. Context #1: A “Hole in our Holiness”

1. Kevin Deyoung... “Holiness is like camping... some people ‘really into it,’ others not so much
2. Sad evidence that many Christians don’t have a passion for holiness

### B. Creation Transformed: From Sterile Desert to Fruitful Garden (vs. 1-2)

***Isaiah 35:1-2 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup> it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.***

### C. People Transformed: From Cursed Weakness to Blessed Strength (vs. 3-7)

***Isaiah 35:3-7 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; <sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." <sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. <sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. <sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.***

### D. The Transforming Event: “Your God Will Come to Save You” (vs. 4)

***Isaiah 35:4 say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."***

## II. The Journey of the Transformed: A Highway of Holiness (vs. 8-10)

***Isaiah 35:8-10 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. <sup>9</sup> No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, <sup>10</sup> and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.***

### A. The "Way of Holiness" Described Here

1. Picks up on a vital aspect of Israel's annual worship calendar... the thrice-yearly pilgrimages to Jerusalem

***Deuteronomy 16:16 Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the LORD empty-handed***

"Songs of Ascents"... Psalms to be sung by the pilgrims as they travelled to Jerusalem to worship

***Psalms 84:5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.***

2. These times of movement from where you lived to the central place of worship were pictures, types, symbols of the salvation God had planned for us in Christ
3. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well

***John 4:21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.***

4. So the pilgrimage would not be physical but spiritual
5. Others think the issue is the return from exile that God effected... as the ransomed of the Lord would return from Babylon to reestablish homes in Jerusalem; these returning Jews would travel the King's highway back from Babylon to Jerusalem

***Ezra 1:1-3 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia***

*to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing: <sup>2</sup> ¶ "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. <sup>3</sup> Anyone of his people among you-- may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem.*

6. But that is also merely a type and shadow of the salvation Christ works
7. The descriptors here are powerful:

a. **A highway will be there:**

*Isaiah 35:8 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness.*

picture a graded, raised road, built by the king for the economic unity of his empire... enabling commerce more freely, allowing his soldiers to move quickly where the king wanted them, allowing communication from the capital city to the distant provinces [Roman roads: over 250,000 miles of interconnected roads]

- b. **It will be called the Way of Holiness:** just like a King's Highway was governed by his laws, and would be exclusive for his purposes, so this is a HIGHWAY of HOLINESS...

Holiness = being set apart... implies a separation... the word "holy" used over 600 times in the Bible... more than 700 if you include words like "holiness" "sanctify," and "sanctification"

The idea of this HIGHWAY is MOVEMENT AWAY from the unclean city, the unclean country, the unclean lifestyle to a holy place... a journey from impurity to purity

*Isaiah 52:11 Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the vessels of the LORD.*

*Revelation 18:4-5 "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; <sup>5</sup> for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.*

*2 Corinthians 6:17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."*

- c. **Wicked fools and the unclean will not be permitted on it:** this is the exclusive nature of the journey; you ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE—justification by faith in Jesus Christ—before you can make a single step of salvation; anyone who tries to journey on the road

without being made clean first by the blood of Christ will be called a thief and a deceiver

- d. **No lion or ferocious beast will get up on it:** a picture of safety and protection; though ancient travelers were always afraid of attack from evil men or wild beasts, this highway will be protected; those who travel this road cannot be harmed, but they will be protected from all evil attack

Pilgrim's Progress: John Bunyan understood this image better than almost anyone else in church history; his allegory pictured the Christian life from conversion through to the end in the Celestial City—heaven. At one point, Christian has to walk between two chained lions. He cannot see the chains, but if he stays on the path—the highway of holiness—the lions cannot harm him

So it is with Satan and his evil henchmen:

***1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.***

***1 Corinthians 15:32 I fought wild beasts in Ephesus***

- e. **Only the redeemed and the ransomed of the Lord will enter and walk there:** It is impossible to begin the Christian journey to heaven without faith in Jesus Christ; when faith in Christ comes, we have been redeemed—bought with a price from slavery—we have been ransomed (rescued from captivity); then we may walk on the highway of Holiness to the heavenly Zion... and we will enter Zion with singing!!

B. The Highway of Holiness is the “Way” of Salvation

1. Salvation is a process: Justification leads to Sanctification, which leads to Glorification

***Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed-- not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence-- continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.***

2. Jesus IS the “Way”, He IS the “Highway of Holiness”

***John 14:4-6 You know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I AM THE WAY and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.***

3. Progress is made in the “Highway of Holiness “ gradually and increasingly

**Romans 6:19** *I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.*

This is the HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS

### III. The Destination of the Transformed: Glorious Zion (vs. 10)

**Isaiah 35:10** *They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.*

- A. After We Have Finished Traveling the Highway of Holiness, We Enter Zion
- B. Singing, Joy, GLADNESS AND JOY!!!
- C. Sorrow and Sighing will FLEE
- D. No More Struggle!! No More Warfare!!

**2 Timothy 4:7** *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

### IV. Ten Truths Concerning the Highway of Holiness

- A. Only the Redeemed May Travel: Justification First, Then Sanctification

- 1. The passage itself makes this plain

**Isaiah 35:8** *The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it.*

**Isaiah 35:9-10** *But only the redeemed will walk there, <sup>10</sup> and the ransomed of the LORD will return.*

- 2. The beginning of this Highway is a NARROW GATE... we enter by faith in Christ

**Matthew 7:13-14** *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

- 3. At the moment of faith in Christ, we are REDEEMED, RANSOMED... BOUGHT OUT from slavery to sin
- 4. Justification MUST precede this journey of holiness, or else it is merely SELF-SALVATION... law-keeping, paying for past sins by present or future obedience

Kevin DeYoung: *The Hole in Our Holiness*... talks about counterfeits to true holiness... it's not mere rule-keeping... it's so easy to live by a simple checklist of do's and don'ts... "Take care of a few bad habits, develop a couple of good ones, and you're set... If you choose selectively the right list, you can, with some effort and sacrifice, start feeling real good about yourself "because you've stayed away from drugs, lost weight, served at the soup kitchen, and renounced Styrofoam. But you've ignored gentleness, humility, joy and sexual purity. God has not really gotten to your heart."

5. Not a single step can be made on the Highway of Holiness by people dead in their transgressions and sins

6. BUT everyone made alive in Christ WILL TRAVEL this Highway

B. Already, But Not Yet: You ARE Holy, So Be Holy

1. If we are redeemed, then we are already holy in God's sight

2. Justification gives us 100% righteousness POSITIONALLY

***Romans 4:3 What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."***

***Romans 4:5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.***

3. The Highway of Holiness is a call to live up to what we already are in Christ

***Ephesians 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.***

YOU ARE HOLY, SO BE HOLY!!!

4. It is vital for us to understand that we do not improve our standing in God's sight one inch by putting a temptation to death, or by doing a good deed... our righteousness is already PERFECT, because it was a gift by faith in Christ... it is CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS in which we stand... that cannot be added to or taken away from

5. The Highway of Holiness is God's way of making clean what is already clean!!

***John 15:2-3 every branch that does bear fruit he prunes (cleans) so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.***

6. YET... though we are positionally holy, we are not practically holy in our thoughts and deeds

7. The Highway of Holiness is a lifelong journey to change that... to think only holy thoughts and to do only holy deeds

### C. Christ-Centered: Union with Christ Leads to Imitation of Christ

1. As we've seen, Jesus IS the Highway of Holiness... He IS the WAY and the truth and the life
2. Christ doesn't merely TEACH the way, or DISPLAY the way, or give an example of the way... He IS the way
3. Thus, holiness is a life of SPIRITUAL UNION with Christ; we are one with Him spiritually—we died with Him, and we are alive in Him

***Romans 6:1-5 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. <sup>5</sup> ¶ If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.***

According to Paul, the reason we don't go on sinning even though all of our sin is covered in grace... because when we became a Christian we we UNITED TO CHRIST spiritually... we DIED with Him to sin, and we ROSE with Him to a whole new life SPIRITUALLY

4. The doctrine of our union with Christ
5. The Highway of Holiness is a daily living out of our spiritual union with Christ
6. A battle for the MIND:

***Romans 6:11 We are to CONSIDER OURSELVES dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus***

7. CONSIDER = a thought process, learning to think in a whole new way

### D. Spirit-Empowered: Only in the Power of the Spirit Can We Make Progress

1. The Highway of Holiness is a journey powered moment by moment by the Holy Spirit
2. The Spirit enters our life and gives us a new POWER to say no to temptation and sin
3. There is an energy that flows into your soul... a HOLY AMBITION to please God, to love Him and prove your love by putting sin to death



4. Along with that holy ambition come new insights from God's word... the Spirit leads you into all truth, guides you to think doctrinally correctly about yourself and God

***Isaiah 30:21-22 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." <sup>22</sup> Then you will defile your idols overlaid with silver and your images covered with gold; you will throw them away like a menstrual cloth and say to them, "Away with you!"***

5. The Holy Spirit is with you in the key moments, too... when the world calls with its alluring call, and the devil fashions a flaming arrow of temptation and fires it at your heart, the Spirit is there to enable you to put the sin to death

***Romans 8:13-14 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, <sup>14</sup> because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.***

6. This is the new life of the Spirit as opposed to the life of the flesh
7. We walk BY THE SPIRIT, not by the flesh
8. This is a mysterious cooperation between us and the Spirit

#### E. Bounded by God's Laws

1. This Highway of Holiness is COMPLETELY DESCRIBED by God's Holy Law
2. We are not justified by works of the law, but the Highway of Holiness is bounded left and right by God's Law
3. We have to be so careful here, because a common counterfeit to the Highway of Holiness is "mere rule-keeping"... reducing holiness to a bunch of external do's and especially don'ts...
  - a. We all love lists like that
  - b. Holiness = don't drink, don't watch any movies at all, don't say any bad words, don't use the internet except for work things, don't wear any fashionable clothing... DO go to church every week, DO give some money to the church, DO have a daily QT
  - c. BUT in all of that, the heart may be a seething cauldron of lust or pride or selfishness, and many other things never get addressed...
4. YES... that simplified list is a counterfeit holiness... BUT

DeYoung: ‘Jesus didn’t say, ‘If you love me, you’ll give up on rules and religion, and do whatever makes you feel good.’ No, He said, ‘If you love me, you’ll obey my commandments.’ (John 14:15)

5. God’s Holy Laws COMPLETELY DESCRIBE the holy life He wants us to live... the Highway of Holiness is BOUNDED LEFT AND RIGHT by God’s Laws... God’s Laws are the pavement under our feet as we travel the Highway of Holiness

***Deuteronomy 5:32-33 So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. <sup>33</sup> Walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you***

***1 John 2:3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.***

***1 John 5:3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome***

***Psalm 119:32 I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free.***

6. Internal heart attitude completely covered by God’s Laws

***Matthew 22:37-39 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these...***

7. External Life behavior completely covered by God’s Laws

- a. Commands about prayer, bible reading, caring for the poor and needy, church involvement, spiritual gifts, speech patterns, what you do with your money, time management,

8. Sanctification means continually learning God’s words... His commands, both the moral laws of the Old Covenant and the new apostolic commands in the New Covenant... learning more and more to obey what God has commanded

9. Best text on this: Romans 8:4

***Romans 8:4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.***

F. Negative: Purity from All Evil

1. There is a NEGATIVE aspect to holiness... what we must NOT DO... there are some things that must have no place in the Christian life

2. In terms of the “Highway of Holiness,” I look on this as going OFF the Highway, going across a boundary God has set up, venturing into forbidden territory

3. PURITY:

**2 Corinthians 7:1** *Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

4. Four types of purity

a. Speech Purity... freedom from impure language, gossip, slander, lies, false doctrine, discouragement, arguments, complaining

**Mouth Filter:** *Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

b. Sexual Purity: freedom from adultery, fornication, impure thoughts, lust, sinful use of the internet or other electronic media

**Ephesians 5:3** *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.*

c. Relational Purity: freedom from anger, arguments, bitterness, selfishness, unforgiveness, pride, superiority, judgmentalism... anything that would break our fellowship with each other

**Philippians 2:2-4** *being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.* <sup>3</sup> *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.* <sup>4</sup> *Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

d. Purity in Lawful Pleasures: freedom from enslavement to the good gifts of God... greedy for more time to pursue hobbies, watch movies, enjoy sports, eat pleasure foods, own possessions, go on trips; any of God's good gifts can become idols if we attach too much of our hearts to them

**1 Corinthians 6:12** *"Everything is permissible for me"-- but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"-- but I will not be mastered by anything.*

G. Positive: Energetic, Self-sacrificial Life of Love

1. The Highway of Holiness is not only negative, a bunch of things we must NOT DO... like I said, I see the negative aspects of sanctification like WALLS we must not jump if we are to stay in the way
2. BUT the Highway of Holiness is also an energetic life of loving, sacrificial service and blessing to others
3. This I see as how we MAKE PROGRESS in the way, by doing active things that serve and bless others
4. Jesus defined holiness and Law-keeping this way... after someone had given the right answer, "Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself"... he said to Jesus

***Luke 10:29-30 "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho..."***

The Parable of the Good Samaritan is an example of what it means to keep the second great commandment... the Good Samaritan's activities:

***Luke 10:33-35 when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'***

A life of self-sacrifice to benefit people who need what you're giving

5. The Highway of Holiness is a life of positive good deeds done out of love for God and love for neighbor

***Isaiah 58:10 if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.***

#### H. Bitter Warfare Every Step of the Way: The World, the Flesh and the Devil

1. The Highway of Holiness is a total war zone... imagine bombs exploding, machine-gun fire kicking up the dirt all around your feet
2. Two basic concepts here
  - a. #1: Your progress on the Highway of Holiness will be extremely HARD because of the world, the flesh and the devil
  - b. #2: You must make an extreme effort to make continual progress on this Highway... it is not ALL OF GOD, like justification is... your works, your sweat, your tears, perhaps even your blood will be needed

3. The devil will craft evil schemes against you, seeking your very life
4. The world will allure you to the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life
5. You flesh will be a bitter enemy within yourself... like a traitor in a siege that sneaks off in the middle of the night to open the door to the enemy
6. Do not expect the Highway of Holiness to be a pleasure journey... expect it to be the hardest thing you've ever done
7. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can you make one step forward, and when you do, to God be the glory for it

#### I. Upward Call of God in Christ Jesus: Total Perfection is the Goal at Every Moment

1. The Highway of Holiness is an INFINITE JOURNEY... I mean it will lay out before you to be travelled the rest of your earthly life
2. The standard is TOTAL PERFECTION IN CHRIST

***Matthew 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.***

***2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection***

3. Holiness is all or nothing; we cannot obey only SOME of God's Law; or obey only SOME of the time

***James 2:10-11 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.***

4. The Holy Spirit will never say to you, "I don't mind if you disobey some of my commands today, just as long as you get most of them right."
5. Instead, wherever we come short of God's law, He will convict us and work on us
6. Our security, our peace, our reconciliation is not EVER based on our daily performance
7. Now, if we are obeying, especially in some very difficult ways that have been a struggle in the past, the Spirit will assure us and commend us, "Well done!" and encourage us... but we must know that we are still, even on our best days, short of total conformity to Christ

#### J. A Community Journey: We Travel in a Group

1. You are not alone on this journey! We are surrounded by fellow travelers and we live out our holiness in the network of relationships we have in the Body of Christ
2. We are responsible for our brothers and sisters in this journey

***Hebrews 12:12-13 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. <sup>13</sup> "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.***

***Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.***

Therefore does our church covenant say,

“We will watch over one another in brotherly love.”

We will give and receive correction, encouragement, instruction, advice on this Highway of Holiness

#### K. Completed in Every Case, But Only at Glorification

1. Everyone who truly begins this way WILL COMPLETE IT... no one will drop out

***Romans 8:29-30 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.***

2. Glorification is an INSTANTANEOUS TRANSFORMATION into perfect Christlikeness

***1 John 3:2 we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.***

3. Hebrews 12 describes those who have died and gone before us

***Hebrews 12:23 the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect***

4. We will continue to make laborious progress in the Highway of Holiness, painful step by painful step, until at death (or the Second Coming of Christ) we will see Jesus face to face and be instantaneously MADE PERFECT
5. Brothers and sisters, WE WILL GET THERE

## V. Applications: Walking the Highway of Holiness

- A. Come to Christ first
- B. Understand that Justification is the basis of our righteousness in God's sight
- C. Understand also that Sanctification (the Highway of Holiness) MUST follow Justification... if you're not on the Highway of Holiness, you are still dead in sin
- D. Assess your life
  - 1. Is there a pattern of growing holiness in your life?
  - 2. Is your thought-life pure? Is your heart growing in love for God and love for others?
  - 3. Is your conscience accusing you or defending you?
  - 4. Are there areas of sin that are troubling you?
  - 5. Look at the four areas of purity
    - a. Sexual purity: are you sinning sexually? Thought life? Internet use? Actual practice with your boyfriend or girlfriend? Men: Looking lustfully at others? Women: Yearning for a romance like in the books and movies, and thus discontent in your marriage
    - b. Speech purity: is your mouth filled with praise and thanks to God? Or are you more characterized by complaining and arguing? Do you slander? Do you gossip? Do you lie? Do you speak foul language or tell impure jokes?
    - c. Relational purity: Do you live a life of love and mercy and forgiveness to others? Or are you characterized by bitterness and unforgiveness? Are you estranged from any member of this church because of something in the past? Are you prideful toward others, feeling yourself superior to them? Or are you reclusive, feeling yourself inferior and thus pulling back from healthy church life?
    - d. Purity in lawful pleasures: Is your life in the area of God's good gifts balanced by self-control? Or do you overindulge in food, or drink, or entertainment—movies, sports, games, fun; are you eating the honey of life in moderation, or are you drowning in a swimming pool of honey and ready to vomit because you lack self-control
  - 6. Look at the positive aspects of life
    - a. Are you living a life of loving, cheerful self-sacrifice to others?

- b. Is there a patterns of ministry to other Christians, especially using your spiritual gifts?
- c. Is there a pattern of financial generosity? Are you giving to the church? Are you giving cheerfully to the poor and the spread of the gospel?
- d. Are you in a pattern of care for weak and needy people—the sick, the widows or orphans—the poor, the lost?
- e. Are you involved in evangelism and missions? These are the good works of holiness that God has given us?

E. If Your Assessment Comes Up Short, Good!! It Means You Are Being Realistic

1. Acknowledge you are forgiven in Christ, and perfectly righteous in Christ
2. Repent of your sins, confessing them and finding forgiveness in the blood of Christ
3. Resolve to live differently... get up and **RUN THE RACE WITH ENDURANCE...** the “race” is the Highway of Holiness... let’s run it to the glory of God!!