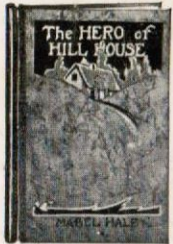


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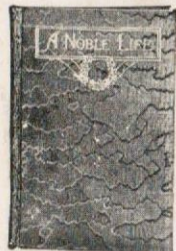
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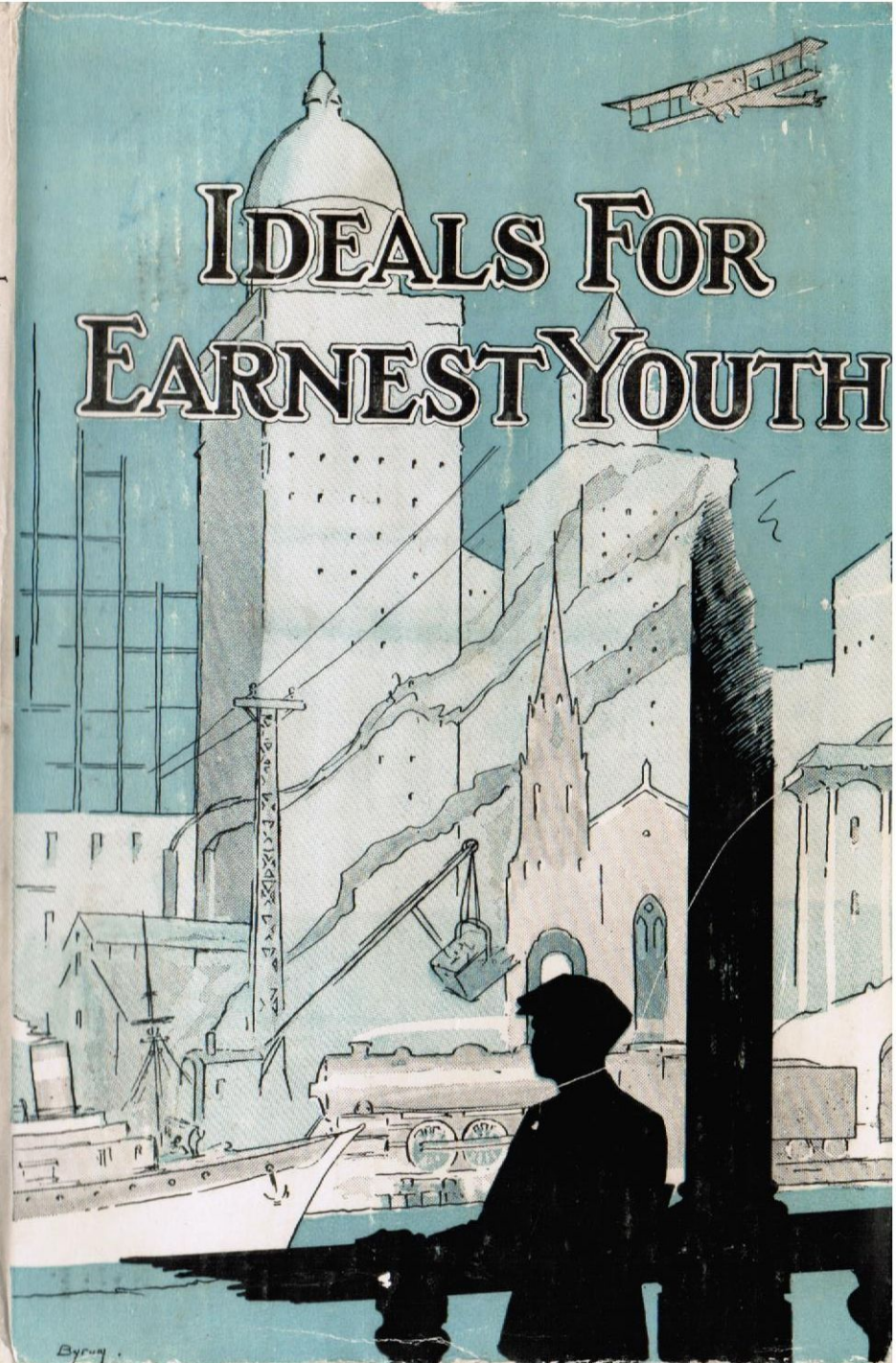
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IDEALS FOR EARNEST YOUTH

ROWE



Pentecostal Publishing Company

211 W. Walnut St.

Louisville, Ky.

IDEALS FOR
EARNEST YOUTH

By

A. T. Rowe

Author of D. L. Moody, the Soul-Winner

PENTECOSTAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

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A PERSONAL NOTE

My Dear Young People:

You have resources that are priceless. There are possibilities within your own selves that are beyond the power to compute. God has endowed you with qualities that if rightly directed will lead you to heights of accomplishment even beyond your fondest dreams.

You have *youth*, that immeasurable blessing. With this to begin with, working to God's great plan for you, you may make your influence for good felt in an ever-widening sphere.

You have *independence*. In this there are both danger and power, but as the power is commanded to good ends, the danger is averted.

You have *heroism*. But learn what real heroism is. Dare to do the right; and this God-given heroism will carry you safely through many a hard place in life.

You have *enthusiasm*. Use that overflowing enthusiasm to carry you over and through obstacles and difficulties in life and to make you more than a conqueror through Him that loved you.

You have *faith*. William Carey challenged the church to a larger faith, and his prophetic appeal

is an epitome of the spirit of youth: "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."

And, last, you have *opportunity*, OPPORTUNITY. The world lies before you. Every avenue of life is open before you. Step into every legitimate opening, and may you make the very utmost of your lives and your opportunities.

A. T. ROWE

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Ideals for Earnest Youth

CHAPTER ONE

LIFE A PURPOSEFUL PLAN

IN ALL of God's creation there is system, plan. Would it not be strange if everything were planned except human life? Had you supposed that life was a matter of "chance," of "luck"? Well, God has planned your life and mine. "How beautiful," you say, "to know that all our life is planned of God, and consequently must work out for the best!"

Yes, but God has a plan for us in which we are honored above the plants and all forms of animal life. Nature carries out God's plan because there is no other way. The animal carries out God's plan because of inherent instinct. But man is honored with the gift of choice. God has a plan for your life and mine, but he leaves it for us to decide whether or not we shall carry it out. He never forces us. We may refuse his plan for us and choose our own. To do this is not only to spoil our lives but to hinder his plan.

God is the master Musician, the master Weaver, the master Builder. If we permit him to have his

way with us the completed whole will be a thing of beauty and usefulness; but a discordant note, a broken thread, a piece of faulty material mars all.

We cannot all be preachers, teachers, missionaries, or active, "separated" gospel workers. Nor is it God's design that we should be. But there is a diversity of talents and gifts; and of one thing we may be sure: God has a plan, a purpose in each individual life. The plan is not the same for all. The essential thing is that each of us find our place in life and then do our best in that place. Some are called to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers. And in addition to these high callings there are innumerable other gifts which are freely bestowed. It requires many kinds of people and all sorts of talents to carry out God's complete program for the winning of the world to Christ.

"God holds the key of all unknown,
And I am glad;
If other hands should hold the key,
Or if he trusted it to me,
I might be sad.

"Enough; this covers all my want!
And so I rest;
For what I cannot, he can see,
And in his care I'll surely be
Forever blest."

CHAPTER TWO

THE UNPLANNED LIFE
A TRAGEDY

WITHOUT question the unplanned life is a tragedy. God has made his plan for us; we should make *our* plans to conform to his. We plan everything else—our education, our homes, our household duties, our social affairs. The captain of the sea moves by chart; the mountain climber employs a guide; the tourist follows his map or blue-book. The architect plans his house in every detail before he starts work. The painter plans his picture and every stroke of the brush is full of meaning.

But too often the life itself is unplanned. The Bible tells us of a foolish man who began building a house without having counted the cost, and the house was a failure—it was never completed. Do we want to imitate that man?

It is most unwise to leave God out of our planning. Regardless of how much in earnest we may be in making our plans there is danger of failure with God left out. To leave God out is to refuse the services of the master Architect. There can be no doubt that the God-planned life is by all odds the best, most useful, and happiest life. We cannot

know what the future holds. God knows. He knows all that is back of us and all that is to come. He sees as we cannot see. He sees the ending of the path that to us appears rough and uninviting. And he cares. He is all-loving.

"He knows, he loves, he cares,
Nothing his truth can dim;
He gives his very best to those
Who leave their choice with him."

D. L. Moody had planned to make and save a hundred thousand dollars. When he had accumulated but seven thousand of it God called him to active gospel work, and he spent the seven thousand getting started. Many of our ablest and wisest men, in the gospel and in other pursuits, were men who surrendered to God and let him have his way with them. When Colgate as a poor boy started out to become a soap-maker an old friend advised him: "Make the best soap you can, give a full pound, and don't forget God's part." It was on that principle that Colgate built his business, and from that day, never less—often more—than one-tenth of the profits of that great plant went into the work of the kingdom of God.

The unplanned life, leaving God out, is the greatest tragedy of human life. The call of selfishness, fame, ambition, wealth, power, are heard on all sides

of us. We may try to avoid them by tying ourselves securely as we think to the mast of our own purpose, but without God as our pilot we have no assurance that these calls will not be too much for us. The wisest young people are those who have sought until they have found God's plan and with joy carry out his great purpose. Doing this will drown these other voices.

Since there is a divine plan for each individual life how are we to find our place and know it?

First there must be character at the foundation of every successful life. We may be sure that God's plan for us presupposes positive Christian character. We need not look for God's plan outside of a life of service. God never planned any life to be useless, always getting and never giving. Nature itself abhors uselessness. The life God has planned for us cannot be builded upon a weak, negative foundation. It must have the sure foundation of a positive, strong Christian character on which to build. We must give care, prayer, and much thought to the laying of this foundation.

Then a general education is essential, and the amount and kind of education we acquire will have considerable to do with our success or failure. We are living in a day of keen competition. Efficiency is demanded in every line. Every young person should by all means acquire a grammar-school ed-

ucation, complete high school, and if possible go through a good college. There are specialization schools for various vocations that fit one for his life-work. This program may seem lengthy, but time consumed in preparation for such an important matter as a life-work is never lost.

With a good Christian experience as a groundwork, a good general education, and the will to work and win, we are on a fair way to success. While acquiring this education we can use our talents, and most of us will know pretty well by the time we leave high school or before what our qualifications are and for what we are best fitted. The main trouble is that too few lives are planned. We drift along, grasping at whatever happens to come within our reach, with little thought of a life-work.

CHAPTER THREE

GUIDES FOR CHOOSING
A VOCATION

CERTAIN fundamentals must be considered in choosing a vocation, among them our qualifications and capability, adaptability, education, training, family influence and responsibility, appeal, world need, and, greatest of all, divine Providence. We shall consider only a few of these in detail.

Individual capacity must come in for proper consideration in choosing a career. Human inclinations and desires should be considered, whether these inclinations be inherited or acquired. Capacity is limited when we stop its enlargement and when life is considered sufficient without further aspirations. Millions of people with capacity for doing great things pass through their existence without energizing a fraction of their capacity. Parents have aspirations for their children which are beyond their reach, while other parents minimize the capabilities of their children to such an extent that they cripple them beyond repair. And to know one's capacity need not breed conceit. Whatever talents we have are God-given, not of our own making, and God should have the glory in their use. But we should all work as nearly as possible to our capacity.

THINK ON THESE THINGS

TO WRITE in detail on the many things that should engage the thought of our young people would require a much larger book than this. So for the present we shall touch some things largely by way of suggestion, tho we feel they are all important in the making of a successful life.

Keeping promises is the basis of credit. If we cannot or do not intend to keep a promise, better not make the promise. You may be rated in Dun or Bradstreet as being worth a million, but if you habitually break your promises you will soon find that all with whom you do business will insist upon cash transactions. Make your word as good as your bond. Keep your promises. The fact that others do not keep theirs does not give you license to do the same thing.

In letter writing, conversation, preaching, teaching, practise brevity. Avoid verbosity. "Speak to the point, and stop when you reach it." There was a fire in a certain city. The newspaper reporter wired his paper asking if they wanted a report of it. They wired for him to send a story of not to exceed six hundred words. He wired back, "Impossible to tell story in less than twelve hundred words." His paper wired him in return: "The story of crea-

tion of world told in six hundred words. Try it." Do not take all evening to say what could be well said in ten minutes. Do not use "fillers." Speak it out, then quit.

Be true and loyal to your friends. A good friend is worth having. Do not impose upon him. And if you want friends, you will have to be friendly. If you need friends, so do others. Play square with the world. Be what you seem to be.

Are you an employee? Never get the idea that your employer cannot get along without you. If the biggest man in the United States were to drop out today, the world would move on. It would never stop a minute. How large a place are you filling in world affairs?

If you are on the right track, doing the right thing in the best way you know to do it, hold on; do not give up. Whether you win or lose in the final result, the record will be made up on the basis of how hard you tried—how you played the game, rather than on the final outcome.

Nearly everybody in the world seems to be trying to "catch up." It is a hard thing to do. Better not get behind. Keep up with the procession. Pay cash. Do not buy beyond your ability to pay. Do today what should be done today, for the danger is that if you get behind you may never "catch up."

If you are not and cannot be contented at the

work you are doing better find something to do in which you can be content. Discontent is liable to grow on us and become a part of us. Better get into something that interests you, then take an interest in it, and you will be content.

In dress avoid the extremes. Temperance, modesty, neatness are the right ideas. See that your clothing is neat, clean, becoming, but not overdone, extravagant. Those who make the highest mark in life do not make dress their specialty.

Be versatile. Use your brain, your eyes, ears, hands. Be ready for your opportunity. Maybe you have not been employed to do a certain thing; but the one who is paid for it may be temporarily incapacitated, and your employer may be hard pressed to know what to do. It is worth much to the employer to have someone around who can step into the breach. Can you?