

GOD'S HIGHWAY



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A NEW IDEA FOR AN OLD PROBLEM

As I prepare to head to Daytona Bike Week there are always tons of things I want to do and see. First of all there are old friends. (And they're getting older all the time. Why don't I?) There are the races of every kind, and I enjoy them all. (In my mind I keep saying that I could do that. Maybe not.) Then I try to find time to wander through the manufacturer's areas where they show the world their new offerings. It's good to see and touch these things up close and personally. Every year I read magazine articles about the upcoming models being introduced by the motorcycle companies. They have seldom lived up to their publicity. There may have been significant improvements or even a few truly new ideas, but really not much to separate this year's motorcycle from last year's. It may run a little smoother or a little faster or sit a little lower, but it's still a Harley, a Gold Wing, a Ninja, etc. Some bikes are a huge and boast of more power than most of us ever imagined. I see others that are old and technologically antiquated, but they still have their own qualities which endear them to their owners.

Along that line, I recall that my first bike was a huge thrill for me although it was a joke as far as others were concerned. Friends had bikes with electric starters, so they just pushed a little button. Not me. My kick starter was just put there for the sole purpose of deflating my ego as I repeatedly jumped up and down on it in front of my friends. Meanwhile they laughed as they counted how many times I had kicked it, or how many times it had kicked me. But, in my book, the Mojave 350 was a success. It was my first bike and it made my heart pump with excitement.

Walking down Daytona's Main Street will easily allow me to survey at least 1000 motorcycles per stroll. The motorcycles per square foot ratio is really high since they are all so tightly parked on the sidewalk/curb. Few of them will be the newest models, but they will provide hours of entertainment to those who take the time to look them up and down. The bikes that seem to catch my eye today are the ones that have received personal love and care from their owners. Anybody can go out and spend too much money on a new machine that is basically just "E Pluribus Unum". I really enjoy seeing those motorcycles that have special little touches that make them more comfortable, more beautiful or more powerful. They started out like any other machine, but were transformed because someone had a vision and was willing to pay the price, not just in dollars, but in sweat. Some of my favorite bikes are new ones with extra touches, but the majority are older cycles which have been lovingly restored and even improved. Any bike can become a success, with work.

Our individual lives each have differences, but they are basically the same. That simple statement might cause some people to writhe in rage. They would claim they don't have a fair chance in life. Their daddy was an alcoholic. Mine too. They didn't have money to go to college so they had to work to put themselves through, taking longer than their friends. Been there, and didn't even get a T-shirt for my efforts. They got drafted and thrown into a war that was none of their choosing. It ruined their lives. Sounds like my life story. Many of these disappointed people then resign themselves to living a life without much hope of improvement. People use their difficulties to excuse horrible behavior, including the use of violence, drugs, alcohol, immorality, crime and self-indulgent living. Even a surface inquiry would reveal multitudes of individuals with dreadful handicaps, who astounded the world by their successes. They are remembered for their successes, not their problems. They each had a life as ordinary as yours and mine, but they put effort into making it work. They made adjustments and paid the price in personal effort. Any life can become a success, with work.

If you would like 2008 to be better than 2007, don't count on the lottery. Don't look for a new bike, a new job or a new mate to provide the answers. The main thing you need to change is YOU. Things around you don't truly change you. You change the things around you. Most efforts to change are nothing more than repainting a ship that is sinking in the storms of life. The most powerful way you can change your life is to put it under new management. The old management gave it's best shot, but it didn't work out very well. Give it over to God. Humble yourself. A d m i t your need. Ask His forgiveness, follow His directions and invite His Son to come into your life as Lord and Savior. It's not just a churchy thought. It's the real answer for anybody who's real enough to be really tired of being really tired. Any soul can become gloriously successful with Jesus.

Let's leave the Excusemaker's Low Way, change roads and take God's High Way in 2008. See you down the road.

