

(1). "Macadamization - The Hardening of the  
Arterials".

Introd:- (1). There lived...from yrs 1756-1836 a man who was real benefactor of modern society..literally laying very foundation for much that we enjoy today. Name:- John Louden MacAdam..an engineer. Always considered this clever man Irish..but after investig. must admit he was a Scot! Lived 80 yrs..in itself notable accomp. in those rugged day Thought up idea.. of paving roads with small broken stones packed in to form smooth, hard surface. Today we add tar, oil, clay..pack hard..call roads "Macadamized." Old mud roads now become hardened arterials..and merrily we bowl along Old ways disappearing..hardening into new, permanent state. (2). Begin with this bit of history..bec. believe it presents to us a PARABLE of life..can teach us much about ourselves. Altho. not my concern today..true in physical realms that hardening process goes on..Arteries harden..Workman's hand callouses..hard. e.g. Ken Waddell..electrician..puts fingers into ordinary socket to see if alive! Hardened! Equally true psychologically.. "Can't teach old dog new tricks" ..already set in ways.. "As a twig is bent, so grows the tree" e.g. Tree with loop in it. Imposs. undo..hardened. c/f Prov.22:6.. "Train" - "to narrow". And will walk in narrow way. c/f R.C. "Give us a child for five years..and he is ours forever." (Unless greater power saves). "Sow a thought, reap an act. Sow an act, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a destiny". Macadamization! It goes on always.

I. How vital then..this fact when we exam. spiritual realm.

(a). Does it operate here? Let me suggest this: In ONE area ..NO. In three others..YES. Let me try distinguish..Imp.

FIRST:- There is unchanging area in spir. matters. Vital to see this. Read with me..Jer.6:16...18:15. There are old ancient PATHS set by God..unchanging..ALREADY HARDENED..not soft spot in them..not even a Myth! Complete, perfect Word of God..a prepared path..c/f Prov. 30:6. This is inflexible teaching at Berean B.C. We bel. X.."My words shall not pass away". That path includes many absolutes..e.g. Christ

Himself..Heb. 13:8-9. His salvation..Heb. 5:9 (eternal). And the Gospel itself..John 6:68 (eternal). Unchanging. Gladstone.."The impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture" (Church). The hardened ROCK. Do you not stand here with me? TRUE.

(b). Now the changing, hardening areas in spir. matters. Three. FIRST of these:- The hardening of SIN. Surely all of us know this. c/f "The hardened criminal". Repeated SIN hardens heart..soul. At first, remorse..less..less..

until conscience deadened..brutalized..calloused indeed.  
We speak of "Gospel hardened". Really a heart hardened by constant, sinful refusal of the Gospel. A man can sin beyond any further hope..until heart never respond again..nor H.S. plead. Partic. true of sin of PRIDE..self-exalt..c/f Neh. 9:16.. Dan.5:20.. But best known example..Pharaoh..Exod.8:15, 32 ~~xxx~~..9:7, 34, 10:1. Let me pause right here..to earnest warn anyone here..playing the sin game..or procrastinating the matter of salvation. <sup>2nd</sup> God's invitation is NOW..only NOW..GOSPEL. The way that takes a man away from God will MACADAMIZE..HARDEN. "Beware of what you do twice". c/f Judas..stole..stole..30 pcs. II But there is brighter side to this story..two-fold.

(a). Rejoice in this <sup>2nd</sup> one:- HISTORY HARDENS INTO THE MOLD OF PROPHECY. Cheerful? Decidedly so! History is not casual.. haphazard..chance..IT IS UNDER SUPREME CONTROL. In amazing fashion..while yet allowing man his free-will..God sets the pattern..mold of prophecy..and stream of history MUST flow into it..and HARDEN into solid fact. History NEVER runs out of His control. Cheer up! Look at this example...Matt. 28:18. Jesus reigns today..in over-all fashion. He yet permits Satan's work in this Age. The arterial has not yet hardened. The "soft spots" of Satanic influence remain. BUT SOME DAY IT WILL HARDEN INTO HIS RULE WITH ROD OF IRON..c/f Rev. 19:15-16. Jesus will yet reign supreme and absolute..for ever and ever.

(b). And the final word. <sup>3rd</sup> The personal life of every X'n.. ev. child of God..is hardening into an eternal mold..form. Many have mistaken idea death will change us. NO. True, our bodies in resurrec. be glorified..but CHARACTER IS BUILT HERE AND NOW..DAY BY DAY..HARDENING INTO FINAL FORM. This is why life so imp. Ev. moment has its final impact. c/f Rev. 22:11. Sin hardens..so does X'n char.."Righteous.. holy"..here and now..will crystalize into eternal matrix then. "I am more today what I was yesterday. I shall be more tomorrow what I am today". The stream ever cuts a deeper channel as it flows to the ocean.

Conclus:- 1. Bible School..Church life..in this business..not just teaching facts of Scrip..training in methods of service.. but SHAPING STALWART CHRISTIAN CHARACTER..in young men, women. 2. Let me leave with you three majestic Scriptures:- I John 3:2-3....II Peter 1:4-8....III Cor. 3:18. Here is our goal. To be, day by day..more and more in the image of Christ. God's plan. Rom. 8:28-29.

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Milton - Par. Lost - Sk 3 - "This my long suffering, and my day of grace,  
They who neglect + scorn shall never taste; but hard be hardened, blinded &  
blinded more, that they may stumble on, + deeper fall"