

The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Business

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness.—Isa. 35-8

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THE GIFT OF CHRIST

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"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." (11 Cor. 9:15).

Lord Tennyson one morning, on meeting an aged lady, "And what is the news today?" "The only news I know worth while," she answered, "is that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners." To which Lord Tennyson replied, "Ah! that is good news and it is true news; it is old news and it is new news."

The text speaks about the unspeakable gift of God. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." God has always been giving. He is full of gifts, but there is only one "unspeakable gift," the gift of the Son of His love.

Jesus came not as a journalist to study new scenery, customs or manners of a new country; not an ambassador to propose terms of peace; not as a political king to bring political redemption to a favored nation. No. He came, the gift of God, to the world. He came to give Himself for us and to us.

Let us notice a few aspects of this wonderful gift. This gift is unspeakable in its

GREATNESS

It is the gift of Personality. God manifested in the flesh. God dwelling in very deed among men. Not an influence, merely, but a Divine Person; a Friend, a Saviour.

Jesus was born in a stable, cradled in a manger in Bethlehem, sheltered in Egypt, and brought up in Nazareth. We know very little more about Him for the first thirty years of His life. His three years of ministry was full of gifts to the race, the greatest of all gifts, however, was Himself. "I will come in and sup with him." "This day I must abide at thy house."

It is true we do not know the date of His birth and it is also true that Christ Himself instituted no feast to commemorate that event. He instituted but one feast, and that to commemorate His death—His day of defeat, yet His day of triumph, His day of final victory in the accomplishment of the atonement for the whole race. Yet, it bespeaks the supremacy of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, in the world that this day, known as His birth-day, is celebrated by all the nations; for "all peoples and tribes claim Him. He seems supremely great"—supremely great on all lines: in the realm of intellect, in the realm of character, in the realm of teaching,

in the realm of leadership, in the realm of ethics and religion worthy of the name. He only is the God-man. He alone reigns above all earthly monarchs. "None hath arisen to dispute His throne. Plato divides honors with Aristotle, Bacon walks arm in arm with Newton, Napoleon does not monopolize the admiration of soldiers. In poetry, music, art, and practical life, universal supremacy is unknown. But Jesus Christ is so opulent in His gifts, so transcendent in His words, and works, so unique in His life and death, that He receives universal honors. His name eclipses other names as the noon-day sun obliterates by every excess of light."

What a glorious Personage in the manger! What a Christmas gift—a Gift from heaven to a lost world! What love, what merit, lie in this Gift! There is salvation in no other name but in the name of Jesus, "His name shall be called Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." In the name of the Holy Child Jesus the apostolic saints accomplished. Let us go forth in His name!

The gift is unspeakable in its

UNSELFISHNESS

This Babe differs from other babies in the lowliness of his birth. "No satin-lined cradle, no delicate attentions; but straw and the cattle, and the coarse joke and banter of the camel drivers."

"To be poor is no disgrace." Many of the world's greatest men had barn-like birth-places. Luther, the emancipator of religion, was born among the mines; Shakespeare, the emancipator of literature, was born in a humble home at Stratford-on-Avon; Columbus, the discoverer of the new world, was born in poverty at Genoa; Hogarth, the discoverer of how to make art accumulative and administrative of virtue, was born in a humble home at Westminster; Kitto and Prideaux, whose keys unlock new apartments in the Holy Scriptures, were born in want." Yes, and it may be quite correct to say that nine of ten of the world's greatest men were born in want, "or in very humble homes; but Jesus Christ, the greatest among men and the world's greatest Deliverer, was born in a manger!

Why a manger? The reason is stated: for there was no room in the inn;" is was full of sin. How much like the human heart of today! How little room for Him in some of our

colleges and universities, some homes, churches, communities.

There is absolutely nothing selfish about it. Nothing in His mission was for Himself. He needed nothing. It was all for us. Every aspect of His wonderful life is unselfish time, energy, word and work. He gave out of His very self, yea, He gave His very self. He is a heart Person and His life was poured out. "He poured out His soul unto death."

COMPREHENSIVENESS

"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered him up for us all how shall He not with him freely give us all things." There are two things very noticeable in this text. First, God delivered His Son up for us all. Secondly, He will with Him freely give us all things. Note the two "alls," all men and all things— included in the gift. And Paul is in harmony with the Saviour's own words when He said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Again, "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

Here is the promise of salvation. This was the purpose of the gift. And as to the provision for this glorious deliverance included in the word "salvation," we have only to repeat the word of the cross, "It is finished."

Here is a promise of salvation for all, from all sin, to the uttermost! A gift which covers all the need of humanity on this line, a gift which reaches the deepest need of the human soul, is surely unspeakable.

This gift is put over against the wages of sin. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Here is promise for the body. It is the temple of God. Godliness is a physical protection.

Here is financial promise. God has pledged Himself to add the things that are necessary, provided we seek Him and His righteousness.

The word "comprehensiveness" includes all the Providential dealings of God. All things work together for good to those who love Him.

The gift has comprehended every aspect of human life, and every nation, tribe and tongue of the human race. All christian civilization owes its honor and praise to Him;

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