

# THE KING'S HIGHWAY

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## SPECIAL NOTICE

All correspondence for The Highway should reach us before the 12th and 25th of each month.  
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## EDITORIAL

### CHRISTMAS, A DAY OF REJOICING

*"This is the day which the Lord hath made: let us be glad and rejoice in it."*—Psalm 118:24.

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The Lord is the maker of all days, for "without Him was not anything made that was made." But in a very special sense Jesus is the maker of Christmas day. It was on that day that He was born, or that we celebrate His birth. The day that Jesus was born, in the little town of Bethlehem, was marked by great rejoicing by the heavenly hosts. They sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." So the Psalmist admonishes us to be glad and rejoice also, which implies that we should celebrate Christmas day with gladness and praise to God.

There is a great deal of rejoicing at this season of the year in all Christian lands, especially among the children. They are always happy at the thought of receiving and exchanging gifts, and I am sure we all like to see the children happy: an unhappy child is in an abnormal frame of mind.

Older folk also often manifest a great deal of pleasure and levity at Christmas time. But many of them do so under the influence of selfishness and sin. Many while under the demoralizing influence of strong drink appear to be very happy, and carefree because the alcoholic drug has dulled their sense of shame so they do and say all manner of disgraceful things. A very ignoble way indeed to celebrate the birthday of our Lord and King. But for every legitimate and God-given pleasure which men enjoy, the enemy offers a substitute which is always cheap, demoralizing, and leads to sin and excess, and leaves regrets, remorse of conscience, and a sting in the soul.

In spite of all the evil that is in the world, sin, war, strife, and bloodshed, God would have His people to rejoice again this Christmas season. Look up and praise Him for His boundless love and mercy, which was manifested in the unspeakable gift of Jesus to redeem a lost world from sin and death. "For unto us a child is born: unto us a son is given." And for His gift to us we should not limit Him to one day of praise in the year: for the great apostle has admonished us to "offer unto Him continually, the sacrifices of praise, the fruit of our lips, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

It is reported that the foreign department at Moscow informed all of its diplomats that after January 1, 1937, all in the service of the Soviet Diplomatic Corps must be in good standing in the Society of the Godless.—Selected.

## THE SWEETEST STORY EVER TOLD

(Continued from Page One)

same serenity of soul, the same tranquility that was his may be yours because He the Prince of Peace has bequeathed it to you.

They sang, too, of Good will. Good will toward men is the acid test of Religion. It is the distinguishing mark not alone of Christianity but of the Christian. If there is anything in your heart that is contrary to that Christ-like spirit of glad good will borne on the wings of the angel's song that first Christmas morning, that is the point of failure and defeat in your life.

Good will is a positive quality; it is a will that is good, it is the "charity that never fails," it is that Divine love which must be shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost. It is the very heart of Christianity. It brought Christ here and He brought it here. And so the angels sang.

Now what was the shepherds' response to the heavenly visitation and the heavenly message and the angels' song? It was the response of faith. "Let us see this thing which is come to pass." There were no teasing, taunting questions to mar their simple faith. It was the response of obedience and promptitude, "Let us NOW go." It took them to the manger bed in adoring wonder and sent them out to witness to the glorious news of His coming.

Beloved that same attitude of soul will bring glorious blessing to your life and make you, too, a blessing.

## WATER AND OIL

Of the attacks upon our religion, all must be ineffective except those which come from ourselves. Atheism, infidelity, persecution, ridicule, even adverse legislation are ineffective. John Bunyan showed the fire burning by the side of the wall and unsubdued, though Satan stood at hand putting water on it. Christian, amazed at this and seeking an explanation, was taken to the other side of the wall where one was seen putting on oil.

Very good. But suppose the life is not right. Suppose, because of the rebellion or the carelessness or the compromise of the individual, God's grace is not given. What then? Ah, the fire is easily destroyed.

So you are supposed to be living a Christian life! You are careless of the Sabbath day, making purchases on Sunday for your convenience, or making this a holiday instead of a holy day, a day for secular or business talk or work! (Of course we know the excuses, but we know they are excuses.)

You find excuses for failure to attend the class meeting and the prayer meeting, and you find the reading of the Word and secret prayer crowded out. Perhaps there seems to be no time or opportunity for family worship.

You may be compromising in the places you go, the clothing you wear, the company you keep, the habits you have taken on, the way you are spending your money.

Well, whatever the trouble is—and it is usually not one thing alone—the oil may be coming in drops only instead of a full stream, or it may be stopped entirely. Then Satan can put out the fire.

The greatest loss in the standing of our holy religion in the world has come from such as you. The greatest loss in your personal experience is not from some exterior thing upon which you blame the loss, but from the inside. You are to blame. Why blame another? Oh, get that stream of oil flowing again! God bless you!—Free Methodist.

## THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

In a manger so lowly lay a babe pure and holy;

And the angels watched over His bed;  
While the mother with joy held her dear baby boy,

Then wrapped Him in swaddling clothes.

Wise men from afar who had followed a Star,  
Brought gifts, Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh;  
These they laid at the feet of the baby so sweet;

They thought "Our Redeemer is here."

Now the Heavens were rent and the Angels were sent

To the shepherds, who watched on the plains,

Telling him there was born on this first Christmas morn,

The Saviour long promised to men.

This Saviour still lives and for us intercedes,  
As He sits on the right hand of God.

He has gone to prepare a place for us there  
In the mansions of glory above.

MRS. B. E. STANLEY

## A LIVING HOPE

1 Peter 1:3-6

### I. Its Genesis.

1. The resurrection.
2. The new birth.

### II. Its Characteristic.

1. Living, in that it grows constantly brighter.
2. Living in that it begets new life.

### III. Its Promise.

1. An inheritance incorruptible.
2. An inheritance undefiled.
3. An inheritance unfadeable.

### IV. Its Surety.

1. Preserved in heaven.
2. We are kept by it.

### V. Its Power.

Makes us rejoice in the midst of manifold temptations.—R. Clyde Smith.  
—Free Methodist.

## THAT SERMON

By Rev. Claude A. Watson

That sermon that I listened to. Yes, I was just a listener this time. Was it an electrical transcription? The voice was familiar. I listened attentively.

It was instructive but not indictive.

It was convincing but not convicting.

It produced concern but not conviction.

It was positive but did not reveal possession.

It was explanatory but not experimental.

It was intellectual but not spiritual.

It was goodly but not godly.

It was militant but not melting.

It was authoritative but not attractive.

It was informed but not inspired.

It was full of truth but not of grace.

It was spirited but not spiritual.

It was lengthy but not living.

Yes, the voice was familiar, only two familiar. I bowed my head and prayed.

"Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me,

"Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me,

Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me,

Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me."

—Free Methodist

Grace is the breeze that fills my sails, my compass is faith, and my Pilot is Christ.—Tholuck.