

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

VOL. XXXVIII.

MONCTON, N. B., DECEMBER 15th, 1941

No. 63

Thanks Be to God for His Unspeakable Gift



The True Christmas Spirit and The False

By The Editor

The following scriptures should help us to understand the nature of the true Christmas spirit.

"When He bringeth the First Begotten into the world, He saith, And let all the Angels of God worship Him."—Heb. 1-6.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

"And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, Good Will toward men."

"And he came by the Spirit into the temple: And when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him after the customs of the law, then Simeon took the child up in his arms and blessed God, and said, Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation. And Anna the prophetess coming in at that instant, gave thanks likewise

One can easily understand by these portions of scripture that the true spirit of Christmas is a spirit of worship. See first quotation, "He saith let all the angels of God worship Him." We also gather from the foregoing that true worship may find expression in various ways. First in Great Joy expressed in songs of adoration and praise to God the Giver for His unspeakable Gift. The angels sang Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men. Singing of beautiful sacred songs is always in order by God's people, especially at Christmas time.

Second, when they found the Child they expressed their gratitude to God; "They gave thanks unto him:" so does every grateful heart give thanks to God for the revelation of His Son Jesus Christ.

Third, true worship is accompanied by a spirit of liberality. When the wise men found the child they opened their treasures and presented unto Him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Doubtless the spirit of giving which characterizes Christmas time has its origin in the Gift of a loving Father of which the prophet Isaiah foretold so long ago, "Unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given."

This was indeed a timely gift and so much needed. A Saviour to a perishing world, an expression of a loving heart. When we present gifts we like to hear our friends say, "Just what I need." So that same spirit ought to characterize our giving. Our gifts should be chiefly to the needy. There are so many poor families, where some simple, practical gifts would bring comfort and cheer to needy mothers and children

or shut-ins and sick ones. Christmas is in a special sense a children's day. They should all be remembered, and made glad on the Holy Child's birthday anniversary.

But, for every genuine article, there is the counterfeit; where the true is there is also the false. So it is with our celebrations of Christmas. I fear that we have traveled a long way from God's original plan. Note first that false worship showed itself in King Herod in the beginning. He said to the wise men, when you have found him bring me word so I can come and worship him also. But, did he want to worship Jesus? No, he wanted to destroy him. So the result was the destruction of hundreds of innocents by Herod, and the voice of lamentation and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children. So history repeats. There is in operation today and professedly in the best interests of humanity, that same old murderous spirit of hatred and war, and it will continue until men are saved from sin. Again mothers are weeping for their children because of sin's destructive power. May God comfort their hearts.



unto the Lord, and spoke of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem."—Luke 2.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship Him. When they saw the young child they fell down and worshipped Him; and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto Him gifts," etc.

Again there is much perverted or distorted giving at this season of the year: Giving to those who do not need, and to those who do need, giving the wrong thing. I fear that this last phase of giving is practised among the soldier boys by those who entertain them at the holiday season. I believe in making it as pleasant as possible for the boys who cannot get home at Christmas: But I have it first hand, from some of those who did entertain last year, that the boys were given beer, booze and cigarettes. That is what I call the false, the counterfeit giving, the work of the devil. Our governments and people would better send munitions of war to Hitler than to continue to give, or sell to our boys liquor and cigarettes. And yet the Red Cross, which some of our people are contributing to so freely, is habitually sending cigarettes to the soldiers and I have heard that the boys get them at the Y.M.C.A. also, and from other religious organizations. The curse of God is on that kind of giving because it is destructive to the health and morals of our soldiers.

Since this horrible war is coming so near to us, this writer feels that it would be far more profitable to us as a nation at this Christmas season to humble ourselves before God, put away sin and drunkenness and do less feasting, and more fasting and praying. If our great Empire does not call a halt soon in its drunkenness, Sabbath desecration and immorality, these sins which have been the cause of other nations' downfall in the past, we fear that "the worst is yet to come." "Be not deceived God is not mocked, Whatsoever a man (or nation) soweth that shall he also reap." We must repent or perish.

A Happy and Peaceable Christmas to All Our Readers