

# THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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## EDITORIAL

### THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE AND MESSENGER

The approaching Christmas season finds us thinking again of the first Christmas service. It was truly a pattern service, and there are many things about it we could consider with much profit. But, particularly would I draw your attention again to the preacher, and the singers, and their respective messages.

The preacher of that hour was heaven sent; so also was the message he delivered. Luke 2:9, 10 speaks of him as "the angel (or messenger) of the Lord." And when he said, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy," he meant he was bringing the Lord's message.

The Lord's messenger with the Lord's message is one great need at this Christmas season. While the preacher cannot be an angel after the heavenly order, he can be God's messenger with God's message, and he ought to be, and must be, if the Christmas services of this season are to be patterned after the first. He ought to be "the messenger of the Lord." He ought to feel that he is divinely sent. And, with a consciousness that the message he has to deliver is from above, he should be able to say, "Behold, I bring you good tidings."

But what of the message? What was the theme of the good tidings first delivered? First, it was a call to salvation. It announced to the shepherd congregation the advent of Christ and the purpose of His coming. It revealed His deity. It declared Him to be "Christ the Lord." It proclaimed Him as Saviour. "Unto you is born this day a Saviour," said the angel preacher. Then to the shepherds was told the place of seeking and finding, and the sign by which they would know Him. Thus, in a somewhat brief yet full message, the basic truths concerning Christ and Christmas were plainly stated.

Then that first Christmas message was also a call to service. The good tidings proclaimed to the shepherds were declared to be "to all people." Not just all people including them, but all people as well as them. Thus, they were delivered to them first to believe and then to share.

A like message is needed at this Christmas time. Those basic truths, concerning Christ and Christmas, must again be proclaimed with no uncertainty. The Incarnation, the deity of Christ, His Saviourhood, must all be plainly and faithfully preached. So also must the place, and way, to seek and find the Christ.

But the missionary note, the call to service, must also be sounded. The good tidings are still for all people, but "how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" The good news has been made known to us, first to heed, and then to herald.

What has been said of the messenger and the message of that first Christmas service, can also be said of the angel singers and their song. They too were God appointed and God inspired. They too carried a heaven sent message. And how worshipfully they delivered it! While it was sung to men, it was also addressed to God. It was meant to magnify God, and to centre people's thoughts worshipfully upon Him, and upon His saving purpose through His Son. Such a ministry of sacred song is another great need at this Christmas time!

St. Luke's record of the sequel to the first Christmas service begins with the words, "And it came to pass when the angels were gone away." One wonders what will come to pass through the Christmas services of this season. Much will depend upon those who proclaim the Christmas message, and sing the Christmas songs. Will you faithfully do your part?—E. W. T.

### TOO MUCH TINSEL

Too much tinsel on a tree  
Cheapens it, it seems to me;  
Too much tinsel intertwined  
With our lives, we're sure to find,  
Cheapens them on Christmas Day  
And on any other day.

Too much attention to mere things  
Robs the Yule-time of its wings.  
Let's not forget the meaning true  
Because there is so much to do.  
Too much tinsel takes away  
The dignity of Christmas Day.

The spirit of this season fair  
Should not be cluttered with great care;  
Its best expression seems to be  
In a fine simplicity.  
Oh, may the tinsel things that are  
Nevermore blot out the star!

—Alice Hoffman.

### HOW DOES MY LIFE AFFECT OTHERS?

How does my life affect others? As Christians we cannot remain dormant. If we do we will soon lose our desire to make Christ known to others. Most of us live in families. It is in the family life that we display that which is in us. A vine bears the kind of fruit that is in it, so our Christian lives bear fruit from the heart out. Before we can be of much good to the Lord and witness before others it is well to begin in our own family to live Christ. It is in the family that it is hardest to show the proper Christian spirit. It is in the family that we let down or consider it unnecessary to be polite and kind and forgiving and many other of the Christian virtues. But we are admonished to "Put on . . . as the elect of God . . . bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another . . ." (Col. 3:12).

What a happy family life we could have if all of us, who call ourselves Christian, would show such fruits of the Spirit!—Selected.

### INCONSISTENCY

When teaching school, I became hypercritical of other church members that I considered inconsistent. In prayer-meeting, as I heard them praying, I thought, "Better live as you pray," and as they spoke in testimony meeting I soliloquized, "That is a very good Sunday story, but wait until Monday."

One night at prayer-meeting, while kneeling, God by His Spirit showed me myself. I saw my great sin and danger, asked for mercy and pardon, and was graciously forgiven. A fresh peace and love filled my heart, the resolution of Joshua came to my mind, and gratefully I said: "As for me, no matter what others do, I will serve the Lord."

Since becoming more consistent myself, I have not seen or thought of so many inconsistent persons; but when I am compelled to behold one, by grace I am enabled to put the mantle of charity over that one, and, instead of being impeded, I pledge myself to God afresh and seek to live all the more consecrated and consistent.

As you value your life, your influence, the good of others and the glory of God, forever keep far away from uncharitable judging and censorious speaking of others, for on these rocks many have been injured or wrecked.

—H. T. Crossley.

### FORGIVENESS

There is only one way to forgive—utterly. That forgiveness which is less than complete, is, by so much, short of being real forgiveness. They tell of a baker who laid the foundation of his fortune by breaking crackers in two, rather than give "down weight." Fortunes may, undoubtedly, begin thus, but forgiveness never begins at all with that spirit. Forgiveness doled out and measured off scrupulously is not forgiveness at all. Forgiveness is a flood; it carries everything before it. It is a fire; it burns up even the bitterness of its own remembrance. It is a sunrise; it covers all with its own glory. Let us not use this great word unless we mean this great thing. Do you say: "I can forgive, but I cannot forget?" Who asked you to forget? But that remembrance which is left after a great forgiveness, has been purged of all poison. Such is the forgiveness we celebrate this morning. "I will remember them no more against you, forever," says God concerning our sins. He does not say He will not "remember, but that he will not remember them "against" us.

—Rev. George C. Peck, D.D.

### THE BEST WAY

Not long ago a Hindu woman was converted, chiefly by hearing the Word of God read. She suffered very much persecution from her husband. One day a missionary asked her, "When your husband is angry and persecutes you, what do you do?" She replied, "Well, sir, I cook his food better; when he complains, I sweep the floor cleaner; and when he speaks unkindly, I answer him mildly. I try, sir, to show him that when I became a Christian I became a better wife and a better mother."

The consequences of this was that, while the husband could withstand all the preaching of the missionary, he could not stand the practical preaching of his wife, and gave his heart to God with her.