

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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Editor and Business Manager - Rev. E. W. Tokley
Associate Editor - Rev. H. S. Dow
Other members of Committee: Revs. B. C. Cochrane,
H. C. Mullen, W. L. Fernley, E. R. Watson,
W. H. Mullen.

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EDITORIAL

GOD'S UNSPEAKABLE GIFT

Concerning Christmas Day it has been written: "Today the world stands still to commemorate the birth of a child, the advent of a life, the coming of a character, the fact of a gift designated as the unspeakable Gift of God."

At least it is true that on that day, multitudes throughout the world will pause to reverently commemorate that holy and miraculous birth, and to consider again, and perhaps more fully, the wonder and the worth of that greatest of God's gifts to men, and as they do, with sincere and grateful hearts they will say in the words of St. Paul, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

The fact is, this important and holy day calls for us all to give special time and thought to the God who so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that men might not eternally perish, but have everlasting life; and to the Son whom He so freely gave.

I think we can all appreciate the apostle's choice of a word to describe God's great gift. Actually in saying it was unspeakable, or inexpressible, he was really confessing that it was beyond full description. He was saying that he knew no words that could adequately express the greatness and the comprehensiveness of God's gift.

Doubtless his words refer to the mystery of the Incarnation, of Deity clothing Himself with humanity. As Chas. Wesley put it: "Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, the incarnate Deity!" But they refer to every wonderful aspect of God's gift. Think again of the divine love revealed in it. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world." Consider too, the sacrificial aspect. There was the cost to God, something impossible for us to really comprehend. One mother said she never knew what it must have cost God to send His Son into the world until her son became a foreign missionary, but she only partly knew. But the sacrificial aspect of God's gift also takes in the supreme purpose of Christ's coming. While our thoughts at this time are chiefly of His birth, we must never forget that His coming to Bethlehem was but the first step on earth toward the Jerusalem road, and finally the cross. "God sent His Son into the world to be the propitiation for our sins," and that made necessary His sacrificial

death as well as His wonderful birth.

Consider further, that God's gift is the gift of spiritual redemption and sonship. "When the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, . . . to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." It is also the gift of life, for, "This is life eternal, that they might know . . . Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." And thus we could continue, for as Paul declared, to those who know Him Christ Jesus is made unto them wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and full redemption. The same apostle wrote: "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things"—"all things that pertain unto life and godliness." Surely such a gift should be humbly, gladly, and fully received by all!

But St. Paul's words also remind us that God's unspeakable gift calls for our sincerest and fullest thanksgiving. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." The shepherds expressed their thanks by hastening to Bethlehem to embrace the heavenly gift, the newborn Saviour. And there are many who need to make them their pattern. The wise men gave thanks by following His star until they found themselves in His royal and holy presence, then falling before Him they opened their

A CHRISTMAS QUESTION

How are you coming to Christmas?

Does it mean a jumble of things?

Rushing and hustle,

Sramble and bustle,

Buying gifts and tying up strings?

How are you coming to Christmas?

Does it mean but things you can see?

Hanging of holly,

Gleaming and jolly,

Lighting candles, trimming the tree?

Or do you come to Christmas

With spiritual calm and release?

With time for reflection,

Upon the perfection

Of the wonderful Prince of Peace?

Alice Crowell Hoffman

treasures and presented to Him the choicest and costliest of gifts. And ought we not to emulate them, and pour at His feet our love's treasure store?

The story is told of an old man, a bit of an artist, who spent much of his time at the London Art Galleries. One morning he came across a masterpiece, a picture of Jesus, and he looked and looked at the bewitching representation until greatly moved he cried: "Bless Him! I love Him!" Another person looking at the same picture and hearing the old man's words, cried: "Bless Him! I love Him too!" Soon others were echoing the same words, until quite a company gazed reverently at the Christ, audibly expressing their love for Him. Something like that ought to be taking place continually throughout the Christmas season. Then,

"Come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him, born the King of
Angels,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

True adoration is love of the highest degree, and only such love can ever be sufficient thanks to God for His unspeakable Gift.—E. W. T.

A CHRISTMAS PARAPHRASE

I Corinthians 13

Though I repeat the Christmas story and sing the Christmas carols, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I receive numerous Christmas gifts, and understand their monetary value; and though I believe in celebrating the Christmas Festival, even in the midst of dark and discouraging days, and have not love, I am nothing.

And though I give Christmas presents to the poor, and expose my body to the winter winds while ministering to the needy, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

Especially at Christmas, the Festival of Love, love is patient and kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

And though the Christmas brings its temptations, love doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the fact of God's love manifested in Christ, the Lord.

The marvellous love of God, poured out upon the world in the Babe of Bethlehem, enables us to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, endure all things.

Love never faileth; but whether there be holly and mistletoe, they shall fail; whether there be tinsel and bells, they shall cease; whether the ground be covered with a mantle of snow, it shall vanish away.

For these things are merely a part of our celebration of Christmas, and when the perfect Christmas is come, then that which is of the earth shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake of Christmas as a child, I understood Christmas as a child, but when I became a man, I put away my childish, that is, my selfish ideas of Christmas.

Now we have only a glimpse of the beauty of Christmas; but hereafter we shall see it in all its glory. Now I know in part the meaning of this holy day, but then shall I know it even as also I am known.

And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. May the beautiful Spirit of Love, the true Spirit of Christmas, fill all of our hearts at the blessed anniversary of the time when Christ was born.

—Frank P. Cauble in The Lutheran.

HEAVENLY MINDEDNESS

If asked how we may know when the sanctifying grace of God is operating in the heart, we could not point to a better evidence than the mind being fixed on heavenly things. Where the treasure is there will the heart be also. God is the treasury of the real Christian, and heaven is the place where He is most perfectly enjoyed.—Dr. Robert Boyd.

YOUR LABOR OF LOVE

There is much to discourage and dishearten faithful workers in these days, and we would turn our own eyes and those of all our friends away to Him who is the same, who changes not, on whose promises we live, and whose word we build all our hopes for time and eternity. He cannot deny Himself, and we shall reap if we faint not.—David J. Findlay.