

The Wise Men

Dr. Clyde Meredith

The connection between the testimony of the Wise Men and the motive in John's writing the gospel narrative which bears his name may not seem apparent at first. These men said, "We have seen His star in the East and are come to worship Him." John said of his gospel surrounding the life of our Lord, "These things are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name."

The background of these wise men will remain a mystery. Just where their home was we are not positive. What significance this star carried in their total concept of the Messiah is likewise a subject that has led to considerable conjecture. But they were following all the light they had and were in search of the Messiah that they might worship Him. It is not to be wondered that they left Him with reverent hearts as they laid at His feet their treasures. Likewise, we may turn to an unfailing guide and discover Him. "These things" about Him which are written in His Word may leave some men standing about with secular interests that are absorbing. What has been written seems but idle fancy, and altogether irrelevant to them as they follow their fleshly pursuit. Doubtless, it was true that others besides the wise men saw the Star. But they never packed their saddle bags and headed the noses of their camels westward to where He was to be found. And so they never saw Him. They kept their treasures but they impoverished their lives also.

As Christmas time approaches again "these things" which are written about Him, form a familiar narrative to those who already have believed. They have life in His name. They have brought unto His feet their little all and have walked away to reflect a light in their lives that only He can give. "We have seen His star" are the words of the wise of every age who have come to worship Him.

Jerusalem was a bustle with business, as usual, while their King lay nestled in a manger. Christmas comes each year to a large part of the world whose interests are in a bustling

Jerusalem was a bustle with business, as found in Bethlehem. But "these things are written" that we may be wise—wise enough to hurry to Him and there worship. Believing we have life through His name.

BORN A SAVIOUR

Jesus Christ came to be a Saviour, and nothing less than that. His teaching and His example were but incidental to the main purpose of His coming, for He came to save people from their sins. God's great gift to the world was Himself in the person of His Son, that He might create a new race, giving to each member thereof a new life.—Dr. T. T. Shields.

THE HIGHEST DUTY

The highest duty of those who have found Christ as a personal Saviour, is to let others know what He can do for their souls. Jesus said, "Ye are my witnesses." We must tell all the world that Jesus has come to save from sin, to save here and now, from all sin, to make us free in Himself; to give us joy for sorrow, victory for defeat, pardon for guilt, and holiness for sin.

Sin is sin and even Christmas cheer cannot change it. Only God can deal with it, and if it cost Him what is revealed on Calvary, can we expect to get away with a card and a donation? There is forgiveness for each, and then the fight to put wrong things right. Christmas means nothing less. — Selected.

NOT SANTA CLAUS BUT CHRIST

Again the bells of Christmas tide
Ring out upon the air.
And hearts again are thrilled with thoughts
Of joys that we may share.
But still the author of our bliss
Comes not from snow and ice,
And we in adoration praise
Not Santa Claus but Christ.

The children hang their stockings up
In hope that they may get
The gifts their hearts are longing for
But vaguely doubtful, yet,
There is a gift comes from above,
A wondrous sacrifice,
Who came to earth our souls to save
Not Santa Claus but Christ.

But He who came unto His own,
By them was not received.
No room for Him in hearts or homes,
Because they disbelieved,
And so today we find our Lord
Shut out from hearts, because
They have no room or time for Him
But lots for Santa Claus.

But as there are in land and sea,
Jewels both rich and grand,
For those who diligently seek
With heart, and brain, and hand.
So to the seeker there exists,
A pearl of greatest price,
From whom may we obtain this gem?
Not Santa Claus but Christ.

At Christmas we perhaps may get
The gifts our hearts desire.
But yet no earthly gift may bring
The Pentecostal fire.
And someone stands at our heart's door
To touch our spirits twice;
Forgive our sins and cleanse our hearts.
Not Santa Claus but Christ.

When sorrow presses on our hearts
And earthly hopes are dead,
And all the future we can see
Is filled with nameless dread,
When human sympathy merely helps,
Likewise human advice,
Who sends the blessed Comforter?
Not Santa Claus but Christ.

And when we through the valley pass,
Where no one with us goes,
Shall we to Jesus' home repair?
Or realms of endless woes?
And as we ponder at the brink,
To enter in a trice
Who will we want to take our hand?
Not Santa Claus but Christ.

So Blessed Jesus, to Thee now,
Our lives and hearts and souls,
We freely, fully consecrate,
Nor for ourselves will hold
One little corner of our mind,
But a living sacrifice
We humbly offer all to Thee
Not Santa Claus but Christ.

—Anonymous

Sent in by Rev. P. H. Green

The Campus Corner

BRINGING BETHANY NEARER

For several years "The Bethany Hour," a religious broadcast sponsored by Bethany Bible College, has been going out over CJLS in Yarmouth. Due to the fact that the program was reaching so few of the people who are most keenly interested in Bethany, the broadcast was discontinued this year. It can not be said, however, that the program was not appreciated in the area which it did reach. There have been many requests locally for the broadcast to be continued. There were many faithful listeners in the Town of Yarmouth and Western Nova Scotia.

The School Board has been interested in our broadcasting over a New Brunswick station so that more of the people of our constituency could hear the program. Thus the Board has recommended our making a new venture in the interest of the Kingdom.

There is available to us now a fifteen minute period at 3.45 p. m. on Sunday over CFBC, Saint John. Of course in order to broadcast over a New Brunswick station it is necessary for us to purchase a recording machine. The type of machine needed, with microphone and all attachments, costs three hundred and thirty dollars. In addition to the expense of the machine, there is the charge for broadcast time. Broadcast time over Saint John will cost over six times as much as it cost over the Yarmouth station—twenty-two dollars for every fifteen-minute program. A thirteen-week contract with CFBC (the shortest contract available) will cost approximately three hundred dollars. As we are not going to make any appeal for money over the air, our broadcast will be more of a faith undertaking than some so-called "faith broadcasts." But we do have faith: faith that the broadcast will be a greater blessing than a burden and faith that people will support it cheerfully.

If you want to invest a dollar or two in this radio ministry, designate that your gift is for the radio program when you send it. Contributions sent in now will go towards payment for the recording machine, which has to be paid for by December 29th.

Remember that none is so poor that he cannot pray.

Tune in at 90 on your dial, three-forty-five Sunday afternoon, January 18th.

HIS GREAT TITLES

No single word would suffice to describe the excellence of the coming Messiah. From beginning to end Christ was a Wonderful Counsellor. He had an answer for every question, a solution for every problem, guidance for every perplexity. He was the Mighty God, powerful and giving the power, we need in our Christian life.—Dr. John MacBeath.

"Thanks Be Unto God For His Unspeakable Gift"