

# THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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## EDITORIAL

### "IF WE HAD KNOWN BETTER WE MIGHT HAVE DONE BETTER"

Some years ago at a watchnight service we heard a devoted Christian worker pray, giving thanks to God for a year of victory, and for the privilege of faithfully serving Him. She then added: "Perhaps if we had known better we might have done better."

That thanksgiving for a year of victory and faithful service, and the added acknowledgement, are worthy of consideration. First, they express what many feel as they look back over the year 1952. Then they point us to what is possible for the year 1953. Victorious living and faithful service, for every day of the year before us, are possible through the abounding grace of God. We can be and ought to be "more than conquerors through Him that loved us," and faithful in our stewardship.

But if through knowing better we can do better, let us seek the fullest possible understanding of God's will and work, learning from Him, not only what He wants done, but also His way of doing it. Peter's advice, "Add . . . knowledge," is important. Even a right motive is not enough. "Love (must) abound yet more and more in knowledge and sense."

Let us, then through 1953 appropriate grace to live victoriously and serve God acceptably, and let us seek "the wisdom that is from above" to live and labour wisely.—E. W. T.

### LOOKING BACKWARD

If history is His story, then there is a value in the backward look. As we take stock of the past year, we are enabled to mark all the way the Lord our God hath led us, and to take courage for the future. God's people have learnt to discover an overruling mercy in life's events, and to see God's hand at work in everything for our good.—Dr. T. Wilkinson Riddle.

### OUR EVER-PRESENT GOD

This is my confidence, as I move onward into another year, that everywhere His grace will be available for me, and His peace, the God of yesterday and of today is also the God of all that strange and unknown tomorrow. The knowledge of what God has been in my heritage for the future.—Francis B. James.

## WHEN THE ANGELS WERE GONE AWAY

A Post-Christmas Meditation

"And it came to pass when the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying that was told them concerning this child. And all that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

With these words Luke records the sequel to the first Christmas service. The angels were the divinely sent messengers who, in word and in song, had announced the birth of Christ, and had proclaimed the supreme purpose of His coming. With their messages delivered and their mission accomplished they returned to heaven, from whence they came. Thus the first Christmas service was brought to a close. But our scripture tells us that there was a sequel to that service. It tells us that immediately following its close something "came to pass." It reveals that the Christmas mes-

### BLESS THEN THIS YEAR

O tender Christ, bless Thou this year!

Bless Thou its dawn, and bless

Its noontide and its evening, Lord:

And let each heart confess,

As days and weeks and months go by

To help the year grow old,

That of Thy glory, King of kings,

The half not yet is told.

Mary D. Brine.

sages and music sent the shepherd congregation on a quest to find the Christ whose coming had been announced to them. It states further, that having found Him they spread abroad the good news, and then returned to their daily sphere of life glorifying and praising God.

Our reason for directing your attention to the results of that first Christmas service is because that for us another Christmas season has come and gone. The Christmas messages have been delivered, the Christmas music and singing have died away, and the festivities of this always happy season have ended. But the question uppermost in many minds is this: Has anything come to pass? Has our commemoration of that first Christmas, with all of its meaning, had a sequel comparable to that recorded by St. Luke? Have the Christmas

### THREE MINUTES TO TWELVE

WATCH THEREFORE, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.—Matthew 25:13.

According to the nuclear scientists of our day, the hands of the world's clock stand at **THREE MINUTES TO TWELVE**. Considering that only a few years ago men of wisdom spoke of our being in **The Eleventh Hour**, we are made to realize that the shadows of **The Midnight Hour** are surely and swiftly lengthening. This somber truth calls for serious thinking and sober living, for every tick of the clock brings us nearer Eternity. No time now for an easy, effortless existence, for aimless, abusive activities; no time now to flirt with sin, to mock God or to merely "play" with religion. "Life is real and life is earnest" and it is high time we got down to business about it. If you would discard forever Life's vain things and embrace with enthusiasm Eternity's values, these **THREE MINUTES TO TWELVE** will be the best years of your life.—Louise Hollett.

## KIND WORDS . . .

Kind words do not cost much. They never blister the tongue or lips. Though they do not cost much, yet they accomplish a great deal.

Kind words help one's own good nature and good will. Soft words soften one's own soul. Angry words are the fuel that makes the flame of youth blaze more fiercely.

Kind words tend to make other people good-natured. Cold words freeze people, hot words scorch them, sarcastic words irritate them, bitter words make people bitter, and wrathful words make others also wrathful.

There is such an abundance of all other kinds of words in our day, that it seems desirable to give kind words a chance among them. There are vain words, idle words, hasty words, spiteful words, and warlike words.

Kind words also produce their own image upon men's souls—and a beautiful image it is! They soothe, and quiet, and comfort the hearer, and they shame him out of his sour, morose, unkind feelings.—Unknown.

"If you cannot pray over a thing, and cannot ask God to bless you in it, don't do that thing. A secret that you would keep from God is a secret that you should keep from your own heart."

messages and singing resulted in our travelling in spirit the Bethlehem road? Have we been gripped and moved by the spiritual significance of this sacred season? Has Christmas brought us in touch with the Christ whose advent we have so joyfully commemorated?

We would not belittle the many things that help to make Christmas the happy occasion it always is. Much that characterizes Christmas-tide helps to enrich earthly friendships and human relationships. Yet, the holiday is really a holy day, and its supreme purpose is to reveal Christ, and God's purpose for us through Him.

It is to help us to know God, or know Him better, through the medium of His Son. It is to direct us in the way of peace on earth, through seeking God's glory and man's highest good. And blessed are the people who have not missed the great spiritual significance of this sacred season, who through the Christmas messages and singing have heard the "good tidings of great joy," and hearing have heeded. For them the Christmas season has ended, but the spiritual benefits resulting from it have not ended. They are but beginning; for to them there has come a revelation of the Christ, and like the shepherds of old, with grace in their hearts and with good news to share with others, they are returning, or have returned to their different appointed spheres of life and labour, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they have seen and heard.

—E. W. T.