

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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EDITORIAL

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Already the Christmas rush is on in the realm of things material. Abundant preparation is being made for the Christmas festivities. One wonders how much early spiritual preparation is being made for this holy season, how many are thoughtfully planning to travel the Bethlehem Road, to behold anew the Christ, to worship Him, and to present to Him gifts of which He is so worthy.

Such preparation cannot be made in a rush, but rather by taking time. We recall someone changing the first line of a well-known hymn to, "Take time to behold Him." Let us do that at this Christmas Season. And as we do, the things accompanying Christmas will be rightly related, and Christ will have the preeminence.

—E. W. T.

THE GOOD TIDINGS ARE FOR ALL PEOPLE

So said the angel messenger when Christ was born. "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people," was the message he proclaimed. Yet, missionaries and others who know, are continually reminding us that more than half of the people of the world have never heard them; they have never been told of the "Saviour, which is Christ the Lord," whose coming the angel announced.

Such thoughts cannot but sadden us as we enjoy the many spiritual and material benefits of Christmas, which are ours because the Saviour came, and because His coming has been made known to us. And ought they not to constrain us to do more—much more—"to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death"?

The "good tidings" have been brought to us; let us do our best to share them with others—all others, "till earth's remotest nation has learned Messiah's name."

E. W. T.

BETHANY BIBLE COLLEGE IS CALLING

Have you responded to the appeal from "Bethany" in the last issue of The Highway? We understand the need there is urgent and calls for immediate attention. It is true that there have been several financial appeals of late, and at this season of the year all have

THE MISTAKE OF THE WISE MEN

Dr. G. B. Williamson

They were wise men. They were learned in philosophy and astronomy. Beyond doubt they had read the sacred writings of the Jews. But, like many wise men, they made a mistake.

The Magi were led in their quest for the infant King by a star. They were devout, for they came to worship. But as they journeyed they reasoned. Reason led them to assume that the King would be born in Jerusalem, the capital and residence of Herod. This perfectly logical deduction caused them to turn their caravan toward the great city. They were so certain that they forgot to follow the star that led them.

Upon arrival in the famed capital of Judea their presence was made known to the king. He called for the chief priests and scribes to sacrifice the birthplace of the Messiah. They said unto him, "In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet." Having received that word, they departed. "And, lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was."

There are three factors in divine guidance. They are: the spirit of reverence and reliance upon God, the Word of God in the divine revelation, the providential leading of the Lord. None of these can be omitted if unerring guidance is desired.

The Wise Men employed two of these means to lead them to the birthplace of Christ. They were men filled with the spirit of worship. They followed the providential leading of the Lord—the star they had seen in the east. But they substituted the logical deductions of reason for the revelation of God as contained in the Scriptures. This caused them to lose sight of the star. They went to Jerusalem instead of to Bethlehem. Consultation of the word of prophecy put them back on the right course, and then the star reappeared to mark the place where the Saviour was born.

The supposition of the Magi that reason is a safe substitute for the revelation in God's Word led them astray. It brought further disaster in the slaughter of all the boy babies of Bethlehem. In like manner, every attempt to set aside the Word of God will result in loss of the sense of direction, and consequent confusion to all who take such risk. Furthermore, it will be costly to those who might have been blessed and saved by lives directed of the Lord.

At this advent season may all who call themselves Christians keep the spirit of worship in their hearts. Let them seek the wisdom of the divine revelation. Let them follow the star of providential guidance. These three guides of the spirit of man will lead to the glorious experience of Christ's being born in us today.—Herald of Holiness.

extra expenses, but let us not neglect our workers and the work at "Bethany." Rather let us rally to meet our obligations to the school and its deserving faculty. Let something be sent from every church to at least bring our budget payments up-to-date. Let us all help in this time of need.

E. W. T.

Christmas Cordial

A Yuletide Message by B. C. Cochrane

Glancing at a periodical which comes to our home, my attention was attracted to an item entitled "Christmas Cordial." It proved to be a recipe for a Christmas drink, a mingling of sweetened cranberry, orange and lemon juice. The caption suggested something else to my mind. Cordial is an old name for stimulants and tonics taken to increase the circulation and raise the spirits. Liquid cordial is defined as "a refreshing drink or medicine, taken to stimulate the heart." Used in a more general way the word denotes "anything that comforts or strengthens."

What a refreshing cordial is the Christmas message! How it comforts the heart and lifts the spirits of those who drink deeply of its mingled elements! Here is the recipe:

Take the light of Christmas. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem the Judean hills were flooded with heavenly glory. The darkness of the night fled before the downrush of celestial radiance. But Christ came to shed a greater light over a world-wide area. He, "the light of the world," came to guide men to God. Through Him the way of life and salvation is opened to men who sit in darkness.

Add the peace of Christmas. "Fear not" was the word of assurance to the trembling shepherds. The light made them afraid, the heavenly radiance seemed to threaten divine judgment. But quickly the angel calmed their troubled spirits saying: "Put away all fear: for I am bringing you good news . . ." (Weymouth Trans.) The light of Christ's appearing to us, the influence of His holy presence, creates within us a sense of guilt, a fear of judgment. But these are designed to bring us to repentance and the happy discovery that "God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world . . ." and an offer of peace through the blood of the Cross.

Then mix in the joy of Christmas. "I bring you good tidings of great joy . . ." said the angelic messenger. Later the wise men searching for the Christ-child, "rejoiced with exceeding great joy . . ." when the guiding star led them to Bethlehem and the Lord Jesus. And to every heart to whom the Christ is revealed comes the thrill of "exceeding great joy."

Finally, add the grace of Christmas. "Unto you is born a Saviour . . . Christ the Lord." "Hear it ye storm-toss'd upon the sea of sin . . ."—"Unto you is born a Saviour!" Hear it all that labour and are heavy laden—"Unto you is born a Saviour!" Hear it all that struggle with indwelling sin—"Unto you is born a Saviour!" Hear it all who are depressed and discouraged as you contemplate the failures of men who created false hopes of world deliverance—"Unto you is born a Saviour!" The "mighty to save and strong to deliver" has come! The desire of all nations stands among us ready to "make His blessings flow far as the curse is found." What a glorious thought is this for Christmas of 1953.

Here then is the recipe for a heart-refreshing, faith-stimulating, Christmas Cordial: Mix together the light, the peace, the joy, the grace of Christmas, drink deeply of these mingled blessings, and your soul will be filled and thrilled with the life and hope which Christ came to give.