

## THE PEERLESS LIGHT

I wonder if the Christmas Star  
Which led the Wise Men from afar  
To sacred Bethlehem  
Was hid from every other eye  
That scanned the crowded Eastern sky,  
And shone alone for them?

Or if 'twas there for all to see  
Amid the heavenly galaxy,  
Plain pointer of the way,  
But none save they had eyes to heed  
Or hearts desiring it should lead  
To where the Christ Child lay.

This do I know—that wondrous night  
God set a Star of Peerless Light  
For all the world to see,  
And whoso takes that Star for guide  
Shall come where love and joy abide  
Through all eternity.—Selected.

## A Christmas Prayer

By J. H. Jowett, D.D.

O God, the Father of all men, in Whose grace all our light is born, and in Whose love is the fountain of our festivity, mercifully lead me into the holy secret of Christmastide, and take me into the innermost room of its holy joy. Forbid that I should remain in the outer courts, dwelling amid its merely carnal pleasures, satisfied with the merriment that dies with the day, and contented with the happiness that passes with the fading flower and the withering leaf. Bring me into the eternal things of this blessed season, the things that abide, the love that manifests itself in unflinching good will, and the joy that rings Christmas bells all the year round. Let me draw water out of the wells of salvation, and let the joy of the Lord be my strength.

Graciously give unto me the joy of perfect reconciliation with Thy will. May every disorderly power in my soul be subdued to willing obedience. Create in me the music of harmonious fellowship so that all my powers may be as a united orchestra to praise and bless Thy holy name.

And mercifully give unto me the joy of spiritual liberty. Let Thy statutes become my songs. Take the reluctance out of my service and the frown from my obedience. Let me not be in Thy house in the spirit of a bond-slave, but rather in the spirit of a son, finding springs of comfort in Thy presence, and esteeming Thy desire as my delight.

O God, give unto me the holy joy of human sympathy. Recreate the chords that have become insensitive to my brother's joy and griefs. If the harp is broken graciously remake it out of the fulness of Thy love. Save me from the death of selfishness. When Christmastide is over suffer me not to die again into moral benumbing, untroubled by my brother's sighs and uncheered by my brother's songs. Unite me to my fellow with tender kinship, and let me be partaker of his triumphs and defeats.

And graciously impart unto me the joy of glorious hope. Let my horizon shine with most alluring light. May the Christmas star always go before me, leading me to ever-deepening revelations of the Lord, and giving me fresh surprises of Heavenly grace and love.

Kindle Thou the Christmas fire of holy love. Light the lamps of Christmas geniality and good will. Hallow and glorify my Lord's birthday with Thy presence, and crown it with unsullied joy and peace. Amen.

The King's Highway

## THE VOICE OF THE INCARNATION

By Dr. C. W. Butler

The advent of Christ marked not only the highest self-revelation of God to man, but it marked God's identification of Himself with humanity. In this, Christ laid aside the glory of His eternal Godhood, and humbled Himself in uniting the nature of Godhood with the nature of humanhood. In this identification He was made like unto His brethren, who should be saved out from the first Adam's race unto membership in the second Adam's race. In the life He was to lead in the flesh He was to live under the perfect law, or will of the Father. He was thus to fulfill all righteousness and conquer temptation and the devil, in the realm of actual human living. This He did; He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

He met all the demands of God's perfect law, not only in perfect obedience, but also by perfect conformity thereto in what He was. He did righteously. He was inherently righteous.

Thus, in relation to the law, He revealed the righteousness of His perfect law and government. Glory be to God forever! Christ's coming maintained order in God's moral universe, and struck an eternal balance in His moral government. He was thus free from the curse of breaking the law. The law had nothing on Him. He needed no repentance. He needed no sin offering for Himself.

It was on the basis of these great facts that He could voluntarily step under the curse of the law, and bear it in behalf of lost men. Having obeyed the law perfectly, having conquered sin, the world, and the devil, He earned His right to never taste death, but rather to be immortalized on His feet, and to re-enter glory a perfect Conqueror.

It was at this point the greatest fact of His coming was revealed; namely, He turned from His right to take a glorified and immortalized body into Heaven, and identified His perfect selfhood with man's sin problem. To me, the most wonderful text in the Word of God is recorded in 2 Cor. 5:21, "He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Christ was thus identified with man's sin, in that He bore its curse, "being made a curse for us." That is, He, the only perfectly righteous One, was, under the law, treated like a sinner. "He was bruised for our iniquities," suffering under the curse of the law like a sinner. "He died unto sin." It is in this that He magnified the law and made it honorable. He added unspeakable sacrifice to perfect obedience.

He stands out the incomparable Christ. By Him men are won to God, and angels adore Him. He will be the light of the eternal new creation of the future. A redeemed race will be joined to Him forever as an eternal, new expression of God in him." The "dayspring from on high hath visited us." The day of hope has dawned for a race of men lost in the darkness of sin's eternal night.

But now, men may be lifted to light, to life, and to holiness forever. Hallelujah! Since He was made sin for us, our sins may be blotted out, their guilt cancelled, their condemnation lifted, their power broken, and the awful sentence of eternal death commuted; yea, we may be so recreated in "righteousness and true holiness" as to bear anew His blessed image, share in His glory, and thus in eternal har-

## "HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL"

"On His shoulder He shall bear  
Power and majesty, and wear  
On His vesture and His thigh  
Names most awful, names most high."

The influence of Christ upon all time and history has been recognized by all great historians. Even among unbelievers wonderful testimonies have been given. Paul Richter, the great French writer, said: "Christ, the holiest among the mighty, the mightiest among the holy, lifted with his pierced hand empires off their hinges, turned the stream of centuries out of its channels and still governs the ages." Another has said, "Christ's signature is upon all time, and all the centuries bear his stamp. He did more than Caesar or Charlemagne when, with the finger of God, he wrote his name on every age and every letter."

We are in times when the tendency is to compare Christ with the great and illustrious men of history, but there can be no such comparison. Like the sun, he outshines them all. As we think of Christ, his divinity, his marvelous life, character, and ministry, we feel like joining with the poet as he sings:

"O could I speak the matchless worth,  
O could I sound the glories forth,  
Which in my Saviour shine,  
I'd soar and touch the heavenly strings,  
And vie with Gabriel while he sings  
In notes almost divine."

Napoleon, after his wrecking of the nations, his battles and defeats, in his years of exile in St. Helena, seemed to have had quite a serious and religious turn in his thinking, and he said some fine things about Christ. It is reported that one day he said to Count Monthelon:

"Can you tell me who Jesus Christ was?" And when the Count declined to answer, he said, "Well, then, I will tell you. Alexander, Charlemagne, and I have founded great empires; but upon what did these creatures depend? Upon force. Jesus has founded his empire upon love, and to this very day millions die for him.

"I think I understand something of human nature and I tell you all these were men and I am a man. No one else is like him. Jesus Christ was more than a man . . . I have inspired multitudes with such devotion that they would have died for me, . . . but to do this it was necessary that I should be visibly present, with the electric influence of my looks, of my words, of my voice. When I saw men and spoke to them I lighted up the flame of self-devotion in their hearts."

Napoleon's conceptions of Christ were only intellectual. How different was that of St. Bernard whose heart flowed with the love of Christ. He said:

"Jesus, the very thought of Thee  
With sweetness fills the breast;  
But sweeter far Thy face to see,  
And in Thy presence rest.

"Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts?  
Thou Fount of life; Thou Light of men!  
From the best bliss that earth imparts,  
We turn unfilled to Thee again."

—Dr. George Ridout.

mony and fellowship with Himself, fulfil the high purpose of our existence, in accord with God's plan in giving us a being. Yes, we, in the light and power of His redeeming grace, shall stand out before all moral intelligence, a new and glorious expression of His own eternal righteousness.

Surely we may join the chorus of the heavenly choir and sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."—Selected.