

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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EDITORIAL

WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS

A memorable period of childhood was the time preceding Christmas. The longest month of the year was Nov. 25th. to Dec. 25th. And boys and girls of today face the same problem. To restrain the spirit of excitement and anticipation and just patiently wait for this greatest day of the year, is a difficult task.

Waiting for the dawning of that first Christmas day was a man named Simeon, "the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel", Luke 2:25. And Simeon was representative of a race which through long centuries looked forward to the coming of the Messiah—Saviour. It was a long, long wait, but "when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son to redeem them". This was the glorious, thrilling climax to the waiting period preceding the first Christmas day. Not a well-laden, brightly-lighted evergreen tree, not a collection of gifts or a well-spread dinner table, but the birth of a Redeemer, was the central thought and theme of Bethlehem's Christmas of long ago.

And this should be the basis for celebrating Christmas of 1956. Jesus was the light of that first Christmas, the joy of that first Christmas, the life of that first Christmas. And Christmas at its best is still the Christ-centred Christmas. In our hearts and in our homes let us seek to honour the Saviour who came to bring grace and salvation to a world that waited with high hopes the dawning of that day of promise and prospect.

And mingled with the joy and gladness we know through Christ's coming to the world is the hope of His return. We wait for that day, "the day of the Lord", and its promised "peace on earth". Through the centuries of this "church age", we have not only learned to look to Christ as the only hope of personal salvation, but also as the only hope of universal deliverance from the curse. The weakness and insufficiency of man and man-made systems of government, moral and political, was never more manifest than in this twentieth century. The world is in desperate need of one "mighty to save and strong to deliver", one who can save us from the deadly and infectious plague of sin which claims innumerable victims in every land, one who can save us from the dreadful peril of

nuclear warfare and universal destruction. And there is but One capable of such warfare and universal destruction. And there is but One capable of such a gigantic assignment, and that is our Lord Jesus Christ. The hope of salvation as a universal condition will realize its desire when He comes in second advent. And "unto them that look for Him shall He appear".

For those who carry a burden of guilt, who wrestle with sins of the flesh and spirit, there is a message of assurance: "Unto you is born a Saviour which is Christ the Lord". For those who, rejoicing in the knowledge of personal salvation, are disturbed and distressed because of world conditions, there is a message of promise: "This same Jesus—will come again".

THE FORGOTTEN FEW

Christmas is a time of giving gifts and expressing appreciation. The tradition among men has arisen from the great act of God's giving: the birth of the Christchild.

Our people find delight in remembering their missionaries and pastors at Christmas time. Most of them are well remembered. Even many Sunday School teachers receive expressions of appreciation and love. There is in our midst, however, a group of forgotten: the faculty and staff of Bethany Bible College. They have the misfortune of belonging to everyone and being the responsibility of no one. Although we have not overlooked them intentionally, we have overlooked them. They are as worthy as our pastors and missionaries, yet they are rarely given a "donation," honored by a birthday party, remembered by a Christmas gift. But they, too, sacrifice to serve. (Their salaries are more often in arrears than those of our missionaries). I am sure that sincere expressions of appreciation mean much to them.

It would seem especially appropriate for parents of students to remember the Bethany faculty and staff. The Apostle Paul said, "Let those who receive instruction in the word share with their instructors all temporal blessings." (Ga. 6:6.) Some churches and lay people may also feel to show appreciation for these servants of Christ and the Church. A card with a note of appreciation or just a note (\$) would express your thoughtfulness.

By a Pastor

One Christmas Eve on a crowded bus, a happy little boy's voice was heard saying, "Mummie, you've given me free fings, haven't you? Dis and dis and dis!" and his chubby finger touched the mother's Christmas presents.

"Bobby," the lady replied, "what are you going to give Mother?"

The blue eyes grew thoughtful for a moment and then the childish voice answered in a loud whisper, "On Christmas morning, Mummie, I'm going to give you—to give you—meself."

Christmas Eve will soon be here again and the gay holiday crowds will once more rush to and fro in their efforts to bring happiness and hope into the lives of others. Some will be all too busy enumerating their own gifts and anticipating their own pleasure. But, whoever we be and whatever our attitude, there will come to our heart this Christmas season the still, small voice of our heavenly Parent gently pleading: Son, daughter, give Me thy heart, just now, that I may in return give YOU My life everlasting. My peace that passeth understanding and My love so full and free. What will your answer be?

In Him we live and move and have our being, and without Him we can do nothing. How, then, can we help but love Him when He loved us so! This, then, must be our answer to the Christ of Christmas this holy day:

"Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Lord, I give my life to Thee,
Thine forevermore to be."

—Louise Hollett.
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