## The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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Published Semi-Monthly at Moncton, N. B. by a Committee of the Alliance.

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All correspondence for the Highway should reach us before the 8th and 23rd of each month.

Printed by Moncton Publishing Co. Ltd.
Printers and Publishers, Moncton, N. B.

AUTHORIZED AS SECOND CLASS MAIL
POST OFFICE DEPT. OTTAWA

MONCTON, N. B., DECEMBER 15, 1959

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## CHRISTMAS CHIMES

Music belongs to Christmas. It is part of the native atmosphere of this great occasion. Ringing bells, singing choirs, mighty organs, and every instrument known to Christ, blend in a mighty symphony pealing out the soulthrilling message of the Saviour's birth.

In the early morning of the first Christmas morn, heaven provided the musical atmosphere. The anthem chosen for the occasion was "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men". It was an angel choir, "a multitude of the heavenly host", that joined in chorus honouring the birth of the Prince of Peace.

There must have been music in heaven also. If there are bells in heaven, they must have rung out the message that angels and men had waited long to hear. If there are harps, or other instruments of music in heaven, they must have joined in symphonic melodies vibrant with praise. If "the morning stars sang to-gether, and all the sons of God shouted for joy" when the foundations of the world were laid, then the ethereal atmosphere must have been filled with shouts, and songs of praise when this new and more glorious project was launched.

The message of Christmas is composed of chiming notes of beauteous harmony. It is a musical masterpiece produce by an Artist Divine. It sings its way into the soul, dispelling darkness and fear, and displacing these troublous elements with light and assurance. And in the soul in which the Christmas message is born, the chimes ring out and ring on through all the variable experiences of life in this world. And the music will roll on long after this physical universe is but a memory.

Love is the keynote of the Christmas message, a love Divine poured out in redemptive plan and programme. Bethlehem's babe is the living sign and symbol of a compassion that only heaven understands. He is the embodiment of the concern of the heart of God, the medium of communication and interpretation for the transmitting of the message that the Almighty had long sought to get through to fallen man.

Peace rings out in the Christmas message. It is a peace based on sacrifice, a peace dearly purchased, but

freely offered. "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself", this was the great desire and design of Him who sent the music of Christmas ringing down the ages. "No more let sin or sorrow grow" is the Divine proclamation. "Fear not", said the angel to the shepherds and to the world, "I bring you good tidings..." unto you is born a Saviour...". And into the soul of sin-sick men this message flows with comfort and healing.

Joy is a major of the Christmas music. "Great joy", rings in with love and peace, and with them rings out to the world. The treasure long desired and long soughts is brought to man by heaven's illustrious Ambassador. "Jesus set the world to singing when He came", singing a song of deliverance and exultation. Through storm and sunshine, lose and gain, laughter and weeping, the song of salvation lives on in the soul.

Hope is a high note of the Christmas anthem. The light and grace brought to the world through the Saviour's birth, is the antidote for pessimism and despair. The message of Christmas in a faith-building message. It tells of a world from which sin is banished and in which men live in harmony with God and each other. "Good will toward men" may not be a reasonable expectation under the government of man, but it is a sure prospect under the government of the Son of God. In this day of fear and frustration, self-seeking and sin, the Christmas message sounds a clear note of hope that is reassuring to the souls of those who know the Christ of Christmas.

Once more the Christmas chimes ring out. Once more their music fills the air and thrills the soul. May the melody float "o'er all the weary world", and the message it bears cheer the hearts of many and change the course of the world that has already waited too long for its Godappointed Deliverer!

## THE WORLD'S MOST UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTER

(Continued from Page 3)

stance to try and act as he believes Jesus Christ would have acted."

Man cannot save himself. Some think that if men know what is right, they will do it, yet men do worse than they know. Psychiatrists can show the problem, but give no pattern. They can untangle the skein, but cannot reweave it. Most of them recognize their own self-improved limitations. Some recommend a change of environment, yet if such would make a man better, how does one account for a Judas and why are kings corrupt?

Herein is the genius of Christ. He is best remembered not for what He said, but what He did. His greatest successes are in the men and women who have put Him first and let Him have His way, and thus have transformed lives. When given a chance, Jesus is always changing things—water into wine, a storm into a calm, a sinner into a saint, the shifting sand like Simon Peter into the solid rock, a zealot like Saul into the Apostle Paul.

Paul.

He is the Saviour today, the One promised in God's word. Although man cannot conquer sin and death, the pity of Christ inclines Him to do it, the promise of Christ binds Him to do it, the power of Christ enables Him to do it. Even now He delivers from the practice of sin, the principle of sin, and someday we shall be saved from the presence of sin. He is the Star that rose at Bethlehem and set at Calvary and rose again on the morning of the resurrection. We have a living Christ who reaches down with the sympathetic hand of heaven to take hold of the upraised hand of lost humanity.

Burbank saw in every weed a potential flower. Michaelangelo saw in blocks of marble, angels struggling to be free. With eyes like those that looked from Calvary