

HOLINESS—PROMOTIVE OF THE ANGELS' SONG

By J. L. Brasher, D. D.
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The mighty chorus sung by the angels over the Bethlehem hills was made up of two ideas, two attitudes, and two results. Glory to God, peace and good will to men. None of these can be fulfilled without some measure of holiness. It can only be fully realized so far as humanity is concerned by the perfection of holiness in the hearts of men. Men can not add to or enhance God's glory. They may reveal it. They can only do this when his will is wrought in them and they themselves become a revelation of God.

God says, condemning the folly of idolatry, "I am the Lord ... and my glory will I not give to another." Here God reveals his exclusiveness, because he will share with no other the glory of the spiritual perfection of men. He is exclusive in that he says, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." The song announces that now God's glory is revealed in the incarnation of his Son, "born of a woman, born under the law, that he might redeem them who are under the law." "Unto you is born this day ... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

A Saviour! What a word of hope is this to a world in the darkness of sin. A Saviour from what? "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." Man's freedom and kingliness had been abused by a wrong choice upon his part, with the result that a race is wrecked and "far gone from original righteousness."

But God clothes himself with humanity, and stoops under humanity's burdens and sorrows and identifies himself with their recovery. There is no glory equal to that glory revealed in turning a sin-bent, hell-bound wretch into a saint filled with supreme love to God, and reflecting the image of God in a life of holiness in a world of sin.

In freedom from fleshly dominance and the evils of sinful tendencies to a life all God-centered, God-controlled, God-saturated. Glory to God in the highest can only be reached when glory to God alone is sought. No creature, however high or low, may divide with him our supreme adoration. Such adoration can only be known and reached when men are sanctified wholly and their whole being is filled with pure love in which there is no admixture of self resulting in self-adoration or the adoration of any creature. But such love is holiness. It fulfills all the ends of the law with relation to God. He does not want punctilious obedience in the letter of the law, but the unmixed and constant love of our hearts doing all that we can do because we love him. This is the first great commandment fulfilling all requirements of creaturehood toward God.

God's glory is seen more in the beautiful love and devotion of the humblest of his saints than in all the wonders of earth and sky. Those who leave the sanctuary of God on the Sabbath day to revel in nature worship—to see him in brooks and fields and streams and sky, forget that the greatest beauty God himself has seen is found in the face of his saints who have "looked unto him and been lightened," or been made radiant.

And at last, when his will is wrought and his saints in radiant glory stand around his throne, the chief attraction to God shall not be the bejeweled city whose proud stories he has builded, any more than a lover would stand and admire a building while his bride-to-be stood on its steps, awaiting him, all radiant in love. Our eyes are holden yet in a measure, so that we do not see the glory of his riches in his saints. But some day we shall behold the amazing beauty of his assembled multitudes, and he also beholding them "shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied."

CHURCH NEWS



HOME MISSION REPORT From MATTAWAMKEAG, MAINE

Dear Highway Friends,

A report from this Home Mission field may be of interest. We have found conditions here to be extremely difficult and unfavorable to our message. Such terms as disillusionment, disappointment, frustration, defeat, and a constant struggle merely to live and keep the rent paid, would scarcely describe the conditions under which we are laboring. At times we almost despaired of seeing anything accomplished.

We have considered other alternatives but the spiritual needs of this area have fired our vision and given us a determination to labor on.

Our first difficulty was getting a place to hold meetings. That difficulty has vanished and now we can obtain halls, schools and in one case a vacant church without cost even including lights and sometimes fuel. The difficulty now is to get people to come to our services.

We have had meetings in ten different communities. Some of them proved to be fruitless, with little interest developing, but in others, considerable interest has been aroused.

The picture here is now somewhat brighter and we are entering a new phase. The most promising work is Kingman with one convert to date and six or more seeking salvation. Our congregation numbers around 18 or twenty. A brother in Bangor has given a piano for this place and another man has offered to get it. A Sunday-School will soon be organized here.

We also have a Sunday School and two meetings a week in the small town of Woodville. The attendance here is about twenty. Also we are working in the Springfield area with some prospects. We hope to get into Lincoln in the Spring as this is a large town. There are a few sympathizers here.

It is our conviction that it will take a great deal of prayer and fasting to really put the work of Holiness across. The prayerful support of all our people is needed to this end.

May the presence of the holy child Jesus be with all the Highway family at this glad season.

H. M. and Mrs. Kimball

"On earth peace, good will toward men." This is the second attitude or result announced by the angel chorus. There can come no universal good will to men until there shall be felt in our hearts the wonder of perfect love fulfilling all the ends of law toward all men. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself," settles forever the problem of ill will, of selfishness, of greed, of covetousness, of oppression, of injustice, of war. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour," is the negative side of this experience. But love is kind, says Paul, and that reveals its positive side.

The kind man never afflicts or hurts his neighbor, but on the contrary, does him all the good of which he is capable as need requires. How can any rational man dream of permanent peace until the day of universal holiness, until that day when there shall not be needed any man to say to his neighbor—know ye the Lord? But all shall know him, from the least to the greatest, and the "earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters

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The King's Highway