

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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— Editorials —

THE SONG AND THE STAR

"There's a song in the air!

There's a star in the sky!"

It's Christmas time again! The world is warm with the spirit of cheer and good will!

Bethlehem is the capital of the world, the Christ-child is honoured and adored.

The songs of Christmas top the "hit parade", the horizon is bright with the glow that belongs to the Season.

The song and the star are Christmas symbols. They represent spiritual blessings which Christ Jesus brought to the world.

In very truth, "Jesus set the world to singing when He came". In fact, the song began with the promise of His appearing.

The hope of world redemption was the theme of the poets and prophets of the Old Testament. The prospect of a Messiah-Saviour was the inspiration of the saints and sages of ancient times.

The songs of Moses and David, of Isaiah and Melachi, were vibrant with the hope of a promised Deliverer. The heart of the pilgrim was set on the Day when the Sun of righteousness would arise with healing in His wings."

When Elizabeth, mother of John Baptist, heard the Virgin's salutation, she burst into song. And when she had finished, Mary herself took up the strain in the immortal Magnificat.

At the birth of John, Zacharias' "mouth was opened... and his tongue loosed, and he spoke and praised God". And when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, the angels sang in chorus to the wondering shepherds.

The devout Simeon descendant of a long line that had patiently waited "for the consolation of Israel", rejoiced in praise to God as he held the Christ-child in his arms and sang of salvation and light brought to the world by the Saviour-Prince. And Anna the prophetess, "coming in that instant, gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spoke of Him to all them that looked for redemption...".

And so it has been through the centuries. When Jesus comes, a new song is born in the soul. "He takes the gloom, and fills the life with glory".

For some, the music of this year's Christmas will be in minor strain, there will be a pattern of light and shadow. The loss and lack of loved ones makes the sense of sadness painfully keen at such a time as this, and the ordinary festivities seem all but out of place.

But in the shadows the believer still has a Christmas song, though it be in minor key. The song of Christmas is one that contains a verse which speaks of relief from the sting of death, and deliverance from the grave's imprisonment. The light of the Gospel reaches even to this dark area, and provides wondrous cheer for the heart this is lonely and sad.

Blessed song of Christmas! Wondrous star of Light! May the music that belongs to the true spirit of this wondrous season be tuned into our hearts by faith, and flood our souls with joy and peace. May the light of heaven beam upon us, banishing gloom and sorrow, and making the future bright with promise!

CHRISTMAS WITHOUT CHRIST

This a phenomenon. At first thought it seems all but impossible. But that it is real and true we cannot deny. Many people will celebrate Christmas without Christ!

A birthday celebration without the guest of honour! Festivities of the Season without the fellowship of the Saviour! Trinkets and toys without the Gift supreme!

But such is the case in twentieth-century Christendom. The "No Room" sign still hangs over the hearts and homes of many who participate in the material and physical side of Christmas.

The unsavoury atmosphere of commercialism is all too prominent at the season called Christmas. The Santa Claus myth is exaggerated to gigantic proportions.

"They're even bringing religion into Christmas" commented a lady to a friend, as they looked at a display in a store window.

The people of God should guard with jealous care the simplicity and significance of scriptural Christmas celebrations.

The central figure in a genuine Christmas is not Santa Claus, but Christ. Our deepest appreciation should not be for the gifts we receive from friends, but the Gift that was given by God. The lights of the Christmas tree must not displace the Light of Life.

Let us enjoy with thankfulness all that contributes toward a truly happy Christmas, but let us avoid with all care the prevalent tendency to celebrate Christmas without Christ!

KEEP CHRISTMAS

"Whatever else be lost among the years,
Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing;
Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,
Let us hold close one day, remembering
Its poignant meaning for the hearts of men.
Let us get back our childlike faith again.

Wealth may have taken wings yet still there are
Clear windowpanes to glow with tinsel star
There are boughs for garlands, and a star
To tip some little fir tree's lifted height.
There is no heart too heavy or too sad,
But some small gift of love can make it glad.

And there are home-sweet rooms where laughter
rings,
And we can sing the carols as of old.
Above the eastern hills a white star swings;
There is an ancient story to be told;
There are kind deeds and cheering words to say.
Let us be happy on the Christ-Child's day."

—Grace Noll Crowell.

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