

## — Our Pastors Speak —



### THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY

by Rev. E. A. M. Kierstead

Text: 1 Cor. 12:31. "And yet I shew unto you a MORE EXCELLENT way".

The Bible has frequently been called the Christians' Guidebook, and it is just that, and much more, for in it are found numerous and uncountable words of advice and direction.

Throughout Chapter 12 Paul had been discussing 'spiritual gifts', of which he said, "I would not have you ignorant". Some of these gifts are: the word of wisdom . . . the word of knowledge . . . faith . . . gifts of healing . . . the working of miracles . . . prophecy . . . discerning of spirits . . . divers kinds of tongues . . . and the interpretation of tongues. He pointed out that only certain people had these gifts and that no one person had them all. His final word of advice was "Covet earnestly the best gifts; and yet I shew unto you a MORE EXCELLENT way".

It is evident that we should not overstress or spend our energies seeking for secondary things but should strive to see that we have found and are following THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY- the way of LOVE.

Love has been described as the GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD, and so it is - whether we are referring to God's love (1 John 4:9) or love for our fellowmen (1 John 4:11).

Jesus evaluated love for God and for our neighbours as THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT.

It is not natural to be filled with love: man naturally is selfish and self-loving.

The characteristics of the self-life are clearly emphasized in 1 Cor. 13: 4-8 if we substitute the word SELF for CHARITY and make positive sentences negative sentences positive. For example: "Self does not suffer long and is not kind . . . and so on".

Man in himself has no power to conquer SELF or SELFISHNESS as they are just as natural as breathing and as hard to stop. BUT God has provided a remedy for these ugly traits in the Lord Jesus.

Jesus has all the LOVE characteristics. Substitute the word JESUS for CHARITY in 1 Cor. 13:4-8 and you read this, "Jesus suffers long and is kind . . . etc."

The secret of living the MORE EXCELLENT WAY is to put Christ in the centre of your life . . . and keep him there . . . "Christ in me" (Gal 2:20, 2 Cor. 5:17) Rom. 8:10; Phil. 4:13; Col. 3:4)

### NOTICE

Special help will be necessary in order to meet our January allotment for Foreign Missions.

Treasurer,

S. E. Cameron

The King's Highway

## The Song and the Star

By B. C. Cochrane

"There's a song in the air,  
There's a star in the sky,"

Once more the magic spell of the Christmas season is upon the Christian world. "The tumult of joy," the spirit of goodwill, the thrilling music of Christmas, are with us again.

The song and the star of Christmas are sacred symbols of the season. They were present on that first Christmas eve and they are still inseparably linked with the commemoration of the Saviour's birth. The symbols are two, but their message is one. The song and the star blend in perfect accord to emphasize the glorious truths of the Christmas story. Both announce to the world that "the dayspring from on high hath visited us."

The song and the star are symbols of worship.

"Glory to God in the highest," sang the angels. We have seen His star in the east and are come to worship Him," said the wise men. And at Christmas time the spirit of worship should be predominant with those who have found Christ. Not Santa Claus, nor the gifts given and received, nor the festivities, but the Christ of God should be the centre of interest at Christmas time. "Oh come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker!" Oh come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

The song and the star are symbols of grace.

"Good tidings of great joy . . . unto you is born a Saviour." This is the Gospel message in the original Christmas setting. The star "stood over where the young child was," a sign that "the fulness of time was come," and the Sun of righteousness had risen to bring light and life to all. The prophetic declaration, "The people which sat in darkness have seen a great light," the promise of redemption to a sin-darkened world, was fulfilled that holy night when He who was "full of grace and truth" came to the earth via the little town of Bethlehem. And He is still the source of grace, redeeming grace, to all who are in bondage to sin.

The song and the star are symbols of hope.

"Peace on earth, good will toward men" was a welcome message for a world disturbed and dominated by strife and discord. The gleaming star announced the advent of "the desire of all nations." The thought of universal peace was but a fanciful dream until Jesus came, and two thousand years after His Bethlehem birth, worldwide peace and good will still seem elusive ideals. And without Him, they are. But the song and the star of Christmas renew a wondrous hope in the hearts of believers, the hope of the Day of the Lord and the universal reign of peace and righteousness. With another celebration of the first advent of our Lord to this earth, we are inspired with the hope of His second advent, and the prospect of deliverance from all that would hurt and destroy.

Listen to the Christmas song, look to the Christmas star. Their message will bring a blessed sense of the presence, peace, and power of the Saviour. Rejoicing in the joy and light we now possess, we look toward a brighter day when in a fuller sense we shall "obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

"For lo, the days are hastening on,

By prophet bards foretold

When with the ever-circling years

Comes round the age of gold;

When peace shall over all the earth

Its ancient splendors fling,

And the whole world gives back the song

Which now the angels sing."