

II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

LIBERTY

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Pastor Randy Love

Leonard Dice, Editor

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The Story of Christmas

The story of Christmas can never grow old,
 No matter how often we hear it;
 And strange tho' it seems, the more often it be told,
 Its telling but helps to endear it.
 That story is told in the cold northern lands,
 Repeated mid isles of the ocean;
 We hear it again on the hot desert sands,
 We sing it amid earth's commotion.
 The story of Christmas we gladly repeat,
 We find it a joy and our duty;
 How gladly we publish the tidings so sweet,
 To those not aware of its beauty.



—Haldor Lillenas

... She brought forth
 her first born son
 ... and laid him in
 a manger
 Luke 2:7

Merry Christmas



From Pastor & Mrs. Love
and Staff

What's Different About a Christian's Christmas?

By Grace Rice MacMullen

Christmas is not now, as it was once, centered in the church. It is a universal celebration that has been adopted by the world. Now everybody says, "Merry Christmas!" Everybody has manger scenes, and everybody talks about the Bethlehem star.

What's different about Christmas for a Christian? We sing the same songs as our next-door neighbor; we too decorate our homes for the holiday season; we too send out Christmas cards. Is the Christmas we observe really different?

There ought to be some difference, and music is one important place where it should show. Others can sing about "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"; our favorite Christmas songs can be "Joy to the World" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." For others, perhaps "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" is a moving thought; to the Christian, the song of a Babe laid "Away in a Manger" is far more moving. Certainly we can sing some of the more lighthearted ones, but the heart of our Christmas is wrapped up in the great songs bequeathed us by Christians singing the greatest song of all, "Christ the Saviour is born!"

Our celebration of Christmas is different too. Not in nightclubs or noisy office parties, but in a candle-decked church or a tree-lit home we find the song of Christmas rings clear. Our Christmas services and our family gatherings at home feature carols and Bible reading, perhaps, and praises to God. For so much of our country, Christmas "spirits" come in a bottle and are regretted afterwards. The proper celebration of Christmas leaves a glow of a different kind—one that stays joyful.

Our gifts are different too. We try to give gifts that will bless and inspire and help. We try to make our Christmas cards messengers of grace.

But the biggest and best difference about our Christmas is that

it isn't limited to December. We can keep on having Christmas joy all year! The world stops thinking about Christ after Christmas. After a few weeks of thinking about "peace on earth, good will to men," Mr. World reads in the newspaper that there is no peace. After reading the sweet story in Luke, he reads a scientific report that "proves" a part of the Bible, supposedly, can't be true. After singing lustily "Joy to the World," he finds his own life beset by grief. Not knowing he can turn to Christ for his peace, joy and eternal salvation, in the midst of doubts and distractions, fears and frustrations, disappointments and doom, he finds he has nothing to cling to, nothing of which he can be certain.

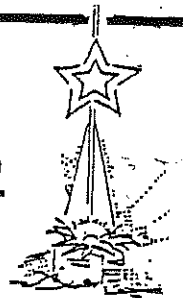
Then he begins to feel, as Longfellow's poem says,

And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong and mocks
the song
Of peace on earth, good will to
men."

And without a ringing, positive, personal knowledge of the same One whose coming to earth we celebrate at Christmas, even Longfellow's "The world revolved from night to day," is only a dream. If only we could get people to see that the real message of Christmas is a year-round, lifelong message of joy and peace through Christ!

Christmas isn't just a few weeks set aside to think about the fact that Christ came to earth as a child; He also lived and loved the multitudes and healed the sick, and comforted; He was crucified and He rose again to bring us salvation. So Christmas isn't just a birth-song to us; it is a year-round anthem in which the first verse is His birth according to promise; the second is His sacrificial death on the cross for the atonement of our sins; the third is His resurrection from death in the power of His deity; and the fourth is the promised

Mary Had The Little Lamb



Mary had the little Lamb
Who lived before His birth;
Self-existent Son of God
From heaven He came to earth. Micah 5:2

Mary had the little Lamb;
See Him in yonder stall -
Virgin-born Son of God,
To save man from the Fall. Isaiah 7:14

Mary had the little Lamb,
Obedient Son of God,
Everywhere the Father led,
His feet were sure to tread. John 6:38

Mary had the little Lamb,
Crucified on the tree;
The rejected Son of God,
He died to set men free. I Peter 1:18

Mary had the little Lamb,
Men placed Him in the grave
Thinking they were done with Him;
To death He was no slave! Matthew 28:6

Mary had the little Lamb,
Ascended now is He;
All work on earth is ended,
Our Advocate to be. Hebrews 4:14-16

Mary had the little Lamb -
Mystery to behold!
From the Lamb of Calvary
A Lion will unfold. Revelation 5:5,6

When the Day Star comes again,
Of this be very sure:
It won't be the Lamb-like silence, Psalm 2:12;
But with the Lion's roar. Revelation 19:11-16

*He who has no
Christmas in his heart
will never find it
under a tree.*

Home He has prepared for us to share with Him for all eternity!

Christmas is candles and trees and cards and gifts, surely—but it is so much more than that! Let no Christian home have Christmas without the reading of the sweet words of the Gospel... without songs in the heart and on the lips... without a new determination to help others know what Christmas can really be like!



Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



Some Christmas Reminders

- ◆ May the Christmas GIFTS remind us of God's greatest gift, His only Son.
- ◆ May the Christmas CANDLES remind us of Him who is the "Light of the world."
- ◆ May the Christmas TREES remind us of another tree upon which he died.
- ◆ May the Christmas CHEER remind us of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."
- ◆ May the Christmas FEAST remind us of Him who is "the Bread of Life."
- ◆ May the Christmas BELLS remind us of the glorious proclamation of His birth.
- ◆ May the Christmas CAROLS remind us of the song the angels sang, "Glory to God in the Highest!"
- ◆ May the Christmas SEASON remind us in every way of Jesus Christ our King!

No Room at Bethlehem? Much Room at Calvary!

There was no room in Bethlehem
For Him who left His throne
To seek the lost at countless cost
And make their griefs His
own;

But there was room on Calvary,
Upon the cross of shame,
For Him to die, uplifted high,
To bear the sinner's blame.

There was no room in Bethlehem;
And in the world today
Men will not give Him room to
live,
And bid Him turn away;

But there is room at Calvary
And there He stands to give.
A home to all who heed His call
And look to Him and live.

There was no room in Bethlehem
For Christ, the King of Kings,
From throne and crown to earth
come down

With healing in His wings;
But there is room at Calvary
For sinners to abide
And all who come may find a
home

In Jesus crucified!

—E. M. Clarkson