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Christmas Reflections

IN THESE critical and anxious times, with the world torn by ideological conflict and even the basic principles of our Christian faith challenged both externally and internally, it may be difficult to settle down to the true and happy spirit of the season, even though it may be more important than ever that we should do so.

Peace and goodwill are the prime principles of Christmas as prescribed from the first observance of the great festival but how tenuous today do we find our grasp upon these so greatly to be desired attributes! However, if we despair, we shall be lost, so why despair? That is the last thing we should do.

Who can deny that the world and its people today lack a real appreciation of the Christian principles and need a new acceptance of the things that are good and right, just and fair, the things that keep us within bounds man between man, living in consideration and respect of the rights and privileges of others instead of in the mundane hiatus of personal edification and aggrandizement, pleasure and acquisition?

Alas, we have been crowding Christ out of Christmas by our materialism, our commercialization, the giving and receiving of gifts and the feasting. Too forgetful have we been of the verities and virtues of the Christian faith of which this Christmas Day is the festival, given over, we think, too much, especially of more recent years, to thoughts and acts other than those of the original inspiration.

In our pre-Christmas reading, we have run across some thoughts entitled Christmas and Light. We consider them worthy of repetition in this our Christmas editorial and recommend them to the consideration of our readers:

In gaudy dungeons where the doors of vice are open, where temptations lure and beckon, where demon vultures thrive on the degradation of others, where human leopards fatten on the bodies and souls of their fellowmen—Let there be light!

Where the gloom of ignorance and fear rests like a black cloud over the enslaved minds and souls of blinded men where through vicious statecraft and subtle priestcraft the smoke-screen of superstition floats continually over the habitations of souls made in the image of God, where truth is hidden or crushed or perverted by rulers of states for their own aggrandizement—Let there be light!

Where poverty hovers with darkened wings and children cry for bread, where youth grows old before its time, and sad, wan faces have forgotten how to smile, where disease leaves babies blinded, paralyzed and deformed—Let there be light!

In a world where madmen and warmongers have wrought destruction and death on innocent millions, where helpless victims have been enslaved and tortured and burned, where a million homeless orphans drift over bleak plains and through black forests like chaff before the shifting winds—Let there be light!

Come, Thou Child of Bethlehem: come, Thou Light of the World, dwell in humble hearts and lowly homes this Christmas tide. Then will the shadows disappear. The gloom will fade away, the beacon fires of Love and Joy and Peace will guide mankind to a nobler and kinder age, and the Christ will reign forever and ever, Lord of Lord and King of Kings.

Christmas Sermon

(Rev. Fred Antrobus, First Baptist Church)

Once again the journeying months have brought us to the Festival beloved by all—a Festival which has a great hold upon the interest and affections of young and old alike. Originally (as a Christian Feast), inspired by religious motives, it has become largely a secular festival—a time of feasting and merrymaking.

Yet even in its most secular aspects, it never entirely loses the traces of its sacred origin. It is not easy, it must be admitted, to relate the 'Manger of Bethlehem', with the ways of this mad, perplexing modern world—yet even such a world—torn as it is by distrust, fear and cruel wrong will listen, if only for a day, to the song, 'which came upon the midnight clear,' of peace among men of goodwill.

These things are not a mere accident. That which is distinctively Christian in the Christmas Season is kept alive, even in these pagan days, because the Church has never allowed the world to forget the wondrous story of Him who 'thought He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich.'

Christmas stands for something very vital in all our Christian thinking, and to ignore or trifle with its religious meaning, is to lose contact with the very heart of Christianity, to surrender a stronghold of the faith. Christmas is the Festival of the Divine Incarnation—God identifying Himself with man. 'God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.'

These words contain the core of our faith and, in the presence of such a conception, the reverent believer is silent. He can but worship. No mere words can explain this central truth. No arguments can prove it to those who are unwilling or unable to believe. This great truth was hidden for generations before the Advent of the Saviour; hidden still from those, whose eyes are blinded by the god of this world—but open for all who would know and obey.

Behind all our Christmas gladness, therefore, whether we are conscious of it or not, lies this tremendous idea: 'The Word (Jesus Christ) became flesh and dwelt among us.' He came down to meet us where we are, and draw us into His fellowship by which we become a New Creation.

So, it cannot be too definitely stated that Christmas stands for a religion that is, not first a creed, a ritual, an ethical idea, or a social program. For the real heart of the Christmas Gospel, is the announcement, that in Jesus, God entered our human life, that God is accessible to us. He dwells among those who believe in Him. So, the heart of our Christianity, is not good advice, but good news, that God is Love, that sin can be forgiven, that the power of evil can be broken, and that man, even when he is old, can begin a new life—all these things are true, because 'unto you was born in Bethlehem, a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord.'

Nativity Theme Greeting Feature

Modern Christmas cards feature literally hundreds of interpretations of the popular Nativity theme. Many of these are reproductions from the old masters, while many others have been created especially for the Christmas card industry.

The Nativity theme, which naturally lends itself to an almost endless variety of interpretations and a wealth of detail, long has been a favorite subject of Christian artists. Many of the details, based upon certain Bible texts, have fostered various legends—such as those concerning the Magi—which grew until the Wise Men were identified and given kingdoms.

The Annunciation is among the earliest subjects represented in Christian art, antedating the Madonna and Child theme by several centuries, and it is interesting to note that the fathers of the Church determined how the Madonna should be portrayed; her dress and mantle are usually blue and red.



In tune with the times, with the carols and chimes, we add our wish for your merry Christmas.

RANCE & HARDY

Christmas 1951

PRINCE RUPERT

Tonight is Christmas Eve and for most people—especially the children—tomorrow morning will see the climax to weeks of anticipation. There will be gifts, gaiety and festivities in most homes.

Also, a lot of people will be looking forward to holidays which accompany the season—two days, at least, for most, and the school children who come in for 16 days this season.

Following their Christmas concerts last week, school ended Friday and resumes January 7.

Most business establishments, with few exceptions, will be closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

The Daily News will not publish on either of the two days.

Banks and financial houses will be closed the two days, as well as all stores.

Canadian National Telegraph offices will be open Christmas Day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Regular hours are in effect Boxing Day.

CN ticket office is closed to-

morrow, but open December 26. CNSS Prince George will arrive as usual on Wednesday, sailing south Thursday.

Union Steamships and Canadian Pacific Steamship offices will be closed Christmas and Boxing Day.

Canadian Pacific Airlines offices will remain open both days but most business will be transacted from the airport offices.

Queen Charlotte Airlines office is closed tomorrow but opens Boxing Day.

Civic offices, with exception of utilities, such as telephone and fire departments, will close both days. Government offices also will be closed.

Council meeting scheduled for tonight will be postponed until Thursday.

Most organizational Christmas parties had been held by Saturday. Christmas morning and evening services will be held at all city churches as advertised in this newspaper.

Some 20 pre-Christmas parties for adults and children, including Thursday night's 'Over Seventy' dinner, were held this year in the city. On Thursday, business will again resume until New Year's Day when most premises close for one day.

A CHRISTMAS Greeting

From all of us, to all our friends
This greeting is extended...
For a very Merry Christmas
And a New Year that is splendid.

Overwaitea Ltd.

Christmas at home..

It is our sincere hope that this Christmas will find you surrounded by family, friends and all those you love... enjoying the full warmth of the spirit of this happy Holiday.



GORDON & ANDERSON LTD.

CHRISTMAS

RUPERT RADIO & ELECTRIC



GREETINGS

Season's Greetings

In sincere appreciation of our pleasant relationship through the past year...we extend a wish to you, our patrons, for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

FWOLIE - RUTTLE Limited



We wish you all the good cheer and pleasure that Christmas Day can bring.

And may the New Year bring to you a full measure of prosperity and happiness.

Regal Printers

BEST Wishes

We hope you will enjoy every minute of every hour of every day of this glorious Holiday Season.

A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to all.

McRae Bros.

Christmas Cheer

We wish our many friends volumes of good cheer and contentment throughout the Christmas Season as well as the coming New Year.

A. E. MacKenzie Furniture Limited

"A good place to buy—over a quarter of a century"

327-3rd Avenue Phone 775

Merry Christmas

To our many friends, whose good will and loyalty have contributed so much to the pleasure of every day business, we send these sincere greetings for happiness this Christmas and prosperity for the coming year.

Bob Parker Limited

FORD - MONARCH DEALERS

Greetings

We extend to our many friends our wishes for a Christmas that will be rich in joy and good health.

VANCE'S Home Arts