God Unrecognized and Unwanted

By W. W. Fereday

Jerusalem, when our Lord was born, was the hub of the religious world. The only religion that ever had divine authority was centred there. All other religions were diabolical, both in origin and character, and ruinous to all who lived under their dark spell. Among other privileges known in Jerusalem was the possession of the Sacred Oracles (Rom. 3:1-2). In the scriptures of the Old Testament was enshrined all that a beneficent Creator had ever communicated to men from the world's foundation.

Yet

A Strange Thing Happened!

Certain travelers from the East, evidently possessed of scientific knowledge, arrived in Jerusalem inquiring where the King of the Jews had been born, having judged from astronomical observations that such an event had taken place. To a few humble Jews, men in covenant relations with Jehovah, the birth had already been divinely made known by means of angels (Luke 2:9); to the Gentile magi, God testified by means of a star in the Heavens (Psa. 19:1-6).

We are not surprised to read in Matt. 2:3 that when Herod the King heard these things he was troubled. This man, although of Edomite descent, and a type of the latter-day Antichrist,

Was Himself King of the Jews,

and accordingly could brook no rival. But does it not make strange reading that “all Jerusalem” was troubled with Him?

The coming of the Wise Men appears to have been several months after the birth of the wondrous Babe, and during the interval there had been the report of the shepherds, who “made known abroad the saying that was told them concerning the child” (Luke 2:17), and the outburst of Simeon in the temple, with Anna’s testimony to many (Luke 2:25-38).

Yet Jerusalem was not only not interested, but was positively troubled when the Wise Men came.

Worse still, Herod, in his anxiety,

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The Neglected Guest

By John Wright Follette

Luke 2:7: "And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger: because there was no room for them in the inn."

The Nativity Prophetic

The Christmas season is again upon us and our hearts instinctively turn to the birth of the Christ Child. We are all familiar with the record of His advent. The many phases of life and interest connected with this wonderful event have been brought to us in many forms. However, we never tire of hearing over and over again the story of His birth. This is, no doubt, due to its exquisite simplicity and deeply human interest and atmosphere. The record given by Luke is generally chosen as a favorite because it brings the scene so near to the human heart and artlessly portrays the story as it no doubt actually occurred.

The text before us, Luke 2:7, is very suggestive and fruitful because it bears testimony to two extreme facts. First, the great fortune and immeasurable blessing (she brought forth, etc.) and second, a most pathetic tragedy (there was no room in the inn). Is not the last phrase prophetic in its pathetic sadness and strangeness? It foreshadowed the spirit of so many in their attitude toward Christ. He came into the world as a Redeemer to save and bring back again to the heart of God the broken race of humanity. He came as Life and Light, but the world would not have Him. They crucified Him. Neither will the world have Him today. He came to His own, to Israel as a King and Messiah. "And His own received Him not." There was no room in the inn of backslidden Jewish economy. He comes to the Church today to bring to her fresh outpouring and blessing of spiritual life and power. But again the material side of life has gained the victory and blighted its best interests. The pathetic and tragic answer is often given, "no room in the inn."

The Innkeeper

It cannot be that so great a loss and failure on the part of the innkeeper could have been due to mere accident. Before we consider what might have been possible causes of failure, let us note two facts which I believe are suggested. I do not believe the innkeeper intended to do the seekers an indignity. It was not a studied rejection. He did not wish to be rude and unkind. He may have been a perfect gentleman. Neither was the rejection founded upon conclusions drawn from careful study and investigation. It rather seems to me he was "earthbound" and material in his vision. This was caused by preoccupation which resulted in neglect. The city was filled with different members of the tribes—they had come for registration. This called forth not only the poor, but the influential and rich. The innkeeper was wise and knew this was his money-making season. Places of entertainment were in demand, and at this late hour a single room was at a premium. Certainly the last room or two could harvest him more than this humble couple, worn and tired, could offer him. So why not reserve the best for others and put the couple in the stable? And (seeing Mary's condition) no doubt he thought it safer and easier to avoid possible inconveniences. Heb. 13:2: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Mark 9:41: "For whosoever shall give you a cup of cold water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, ye shall not lose your reward." The human heart and natural reason still act as hindrances too many times to the richest and best God has for us. Let us not be too severe in our criticism of the innkeeper. It is one thing to preach to the dear sinners and feel pained and burdened that they neglect so rich a salvation by closing their hearts to Him. BUT, dear Christians, ours is to seek Christ and again at Christmas He is seeking a fuller entrance into our lives. He comes to enrich—not to rob.

Tyrant World Spirit

In dealing with young people and helping them through many trying places and crises in life, I have noticed a few possible reasons for closing the doors. One of the first is the tyrant world spirit. I do not mean by this the course, vulgar spirit manifested in outbursting sin and disorder. But rather the tyrannical world spirit as it makes its demands in the forms of recognized customs of life. It takes real courage to stand true to the spiritual convictions in regard to the world and its standards. We are not only Christians but baptized Christians and the Church and the world are expecting and have a right to expect lives lived under higher and more spiritual standards than the world with its wisdom and philosophy can afford.

When He comes to the heart today (and He comes) does He find room in life or has the world spirit (even the legitimate) so occupied us that through sheer neglect and preoccupation we have starved our lives and wounded His heart?

Dominant Passion

In dealing with some young people who have a fair conception of the possibilities of walking in the spirit and a life of service for Christ, I have met some who had "no room" because of a dominant passion. This often takes too much attention and acts as a hindrance to the noblest and best God could bring into our lives.

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CHRISTMAS!! How the word thrilled us from early childhood. In those days, to some of us, it meant a gathering together of our clan, our relatives. It meant a great feast, a big roast goose dinner, with all the trimmings and pumpkin pie. It may have meant over-loaded stomachs; for food in snipping-old Eastern mid-winter days tasted surpassing good. It meant also the renewal of acquaintanceships that had somewhat lapsed during the year. In those childhood days we had only a very superficial understanding of the true meaning of Christmas.

Decade after decade has come and gone since then, and with each its celebrations of Christmas day. In this interval a wealth of understanding concerning Him whose birth we honored, brought us into the same image from glory to glory even as by the spirit of the Lord.

A gift is never purchased, it is given by another. How entrancing that in this case, that other is none other than our Heavenly Father, who loved so much “that He gave His only begotten Son.” To purchase with a single penny would make it no longer a gift. A gift is something which when it is accepted, is our own property. It is not a loan. In a very real sense then we possess Christ, God’s gift, and thank God He possesses us. When we fully receive God’s Christmas gift, it carries with it such a transforming power that it makes the recipient much like the gift. It brings with it the power to love the lost so that we inherently desire to share this Heavenly gift with others. The wise men brought their gifts of gold, of frankincense, and myrrh. We bring our all and lay it at His feet this Christmas, 1938. Then again our gifts are given to one or at most a few, but our heavenly Father’s gift is to a race of dying men and women. How sad that it is not universally accepted!! The reason God is so jealous concerning His gift, is because it cost Him so much to grant it, the humiliation was so great.

We are ready to affirm that every aspect of our salvation is supernatural. His conception, His birth, His annunciation were above the natural.

Mere human reason may reject the doctrine of His vicarious suffering, “the just for the unjust” yet it is true and has been proven a million times. His ascension into Heaven was purely supernatural. His coming again and catching up His waiting bride will likewise be supernatural. We believe it all. There is a fullness of time for each event, but will not this latter event be worthy of our conversation and comment for a million years!

The music of the angels at His first advent has been duplicated many times in Pentecostal Meetings. We wish it were more common today. This, too, is supernatural. It is no wonder the angels sang when Christ was born, they have sung again and again when Christ was born into our hearts.

Without a doubt Jesus was God’s priceless gift to the world, without which there would have been no knowledge of God in the new birth, no joy of salvation, no Baptism in the Holy Ghost, or no healing by faith. How dark the world would be to us if we did not know He was coming again!! With sin abounding on every hand, with the great apostacy sweeping the Christian world, with the nations in perplexity and numbers in open warfare and multitudes being hurled into eternity, one hope remains, Christ’s Second Coming.

With two federal heads of the spiritual world, Jesus Christ now claims as His whosoever will make Him Lord. Whosoever will not so do, Satan claims as his. When Jesus Christ becomes our Head He makes possible by the Holy Spirit that He becomes in some sense incarnated in us. What an honor, what a dignity does this lend to life!! Man’s redemption then depended entirely upon the fact of Christ’s coming into the world to be born, to live, and to die, that we through faith in Him.

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I was born in a heathen family in the year of 1903. My father was a zealous disciple of Confucius, and my mother was a zealous Buddhist worshipper. I never heard the Name of Jesus until I was 16 years old. Once I remember that I went with my mother to worship 500 gods in one room alone. The Chinese people are very religious people. My mother taught me how to be reverent before these Gods. It takes quite a long time to worship them. After all I didn't know as yet which one was my real God. But Praise Lord, since I was saved I know whom I am serving. I know now, that I am serving the true and living God. Hallelujah!

While I was a small boy I studied under a certain tutor, who was an awful opium smoker. Opium at that time was so cheap, even cheaper than cigarettes. Most of the Chinese took opium. Both my father and elder brother did too. I studied from 8 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon, under such an environment. I remember when I recited my lessons, I always swung my head. I had a pig-tail, which is a token of subjection to the Emperor. Of course, while I swung my head, my pigtail swung too. The opium is full of satanic power. While my tutor smoked, the very atmosphere was charged with the demon power. What a bad influence I had from opium smoking. No doubt I could smoke 50 cigarettes a day and a night, before I was saved. Praise Lord, He delivered me from such a bad habit.

Although my mother was an idol-worshipper, she sent me into a mission high school. She disregarded these prejudices and misunderstandings, because most of the Chinese didn't like Christianity and hated missionaries. They called it a foreign religion, and missionaries as "foreign devils." But God's guiding hand was upon her. She sent me there, so that I could receive the Christian influence. In the year of graduation, I joined the Presbyterian church as a member.

As a young man I was very ambitious, and was crazy for knowledge and high learning. So, after I entered into a Christian University, I began to backslide through believing evolution in connection with my science study. Moreover Modernism robbed me of my faith. It seemed to be that "ology" and "ism" are more important than divinity and eternity. After graduation from the University in 1926, I turned to be an infidel or atheist. After I taught one year in high school, the wave of Communism swept over China in 1927. In my backslidding condition I was more or less influenced by the teaching of Communism. Therefore I much opposed Christianity and became very radical and anti-foreign in spirit. I hated and cursed Christians because I was bound by every kind of sin—drinking, smoking, gambling and everything. My heathen wife did the same thing. So we sinned together. Sometimes we quarreled together too. This came to a point that we were going to divorce or commit suicide, since life was so miserable to us. Oh! what a backslider can do—always from bad to worse. How sin' can rob away our peace and joy both in our hearts as well as in our homes. Yet Jesus still loves sinners and backsliders too.

In 1929 I became the dean of a high school in Ningpo, and came in touch with Pentecostal work, because I was hungry about the salvation and seeking after the deeper truth. So the Lord knew my heart. During the winter vacation of 1931, I brought my whole family into Bethel Home, Ningpo, for meetings. Although I prayed for my new birth about three days, my God never answered me. The trouble was that I didn't want to confess my sins in public, as most of the Chinese want to save face. On the fourth day, I emptied out all of my sin in the convention; I felt a deep Spirit of Conviction in the night, I just cried and cried for several hours. My heathen wife saw me and thought I became crazy. Later on He revealed to me that the blood of the Lamb took my sin away and saved me from sin's penalty. As the burden of sin rolled away, I almost leaped into joy. The Lord took away all my desires of smoking, drinking and gambling. So the next morning I had a house cleaning. I smashed away all the stuff which belongs to the devil. "Mr. Devil," I said, "Good-bye to you. I am through with you." In the same night I saw Jesus in vision. As I saw His beauty and glory, I wanted to touch Him. As soon as I touched Him, the glory of God came down, and I received the wonderful Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Since I had seen the vision of a living Christ, there was a call in my innermost being saying "Go, and preach the Gospel! Save these sinners from the uttermost to the uttermost as you have been saved." Of course I had no more taste to teach these dead books, since God gave me such a heavenly taste. So I determined that I was going to resign and follow Jesus. Although

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England.

There can be no peace if humble men and women are not free to think their own thoughts, to express their own feelings, to worship God... There can be no peace if national policy adopts as a deliberate instrument the dispersion all over the world of helpless and persecuted wanderers with no place to lay their heads."

A campaign to obtain a minimum of 1,000,000 signatures to a mammoth telegraphic petition to President Roosevelt urging him to make a public statement urging England to keep the Balfour Declaration, has been launched by the Emergency Committee of Palestine. The Catholics also urge the President to intercede with England.

Although when Mussolini inaugurated his anti-semitic program a few months ago he promised that the new laws would not hinder their right to practice their religion, this assurance was forgotten when recently the Gazette Del Popula came out with a caption: "Government Provision Ends Barbaric Practice" and announced the practice of shechita has been forbidden throughout Italy. There is not a piece of Kosher meat to be found in the country.

Palestine

Those in touch with high government officials in England say the Woodhead Commission's Palestine report will have a majority and minority section. The former is said to reject partition, while the latter favors it under certain conditions. The British now have in Palestine 17,000 infantrymen, two regiments of cavalry, one battery of artillery and a number of armored cars. A fifty mile barbed wire barrier to keep out armed Arab bands has been constructed along the Palestine-Syria frontier. It costs 10,000 dollars a mile and consists of three parallel lines, each six feet high, between which entanglements are strung with wire bedded in concrete foundations. All along the line concrete "pillboxes" manned by machine guns and search light crews have been constructed. These are connected by telephone. With a mobile force of light cars also equipped with search lights, it is hoped to make the line impregnable to raiding bands of Arabs.

PASTOR JOSHUA BANG'S TESTIMONY

(Continued from page 4)

I met much persecution and opposition from my wife and heathen family. God carried me through. Later on God saved my heathen wife and filled her with the Holy Spirit too.

Since I resigned from the school in which I was dean, I have served the King for seven more years, as the pastor of Bethel Assembly and principal of Bethel Bible School. I had the joy and privilege to baptize over 300 people, and overlooked a Bible School with 96 students and eleven out-stations which are all self-supported. My desire now is to save more souls in war-torn China. My heart is there. I wish that all saints in this country would share the burden of saving lost souls by your intercessory prayers. Pray that God can use me as an empty vessel to reach my people in such a heathen, dark country. God will honor those faithful ones who have a part in such a worthy cause. My address is as follows.

—China Address: Joshua Bang, Bethel, 30 Tsao Ma Road, Ningpo, Chekiang Prov., China.

—American Address: In care of Missions Dept., 336 W. Pacific St., Springfield, Missouri, U. S. A.

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WITH VITAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By E. N. O. Kulbeck

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The Incarnation

By The Editor

To understand the birth of Christ we must think of that hour in the eternities when God planned the great redemption. In His great heart of love the plan was made and the question came, "Who will go?" Unhesitatingly came the reply from the Son of God, "I will go." He was a Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. This great redemption was no after-thought of God. Before man was formed or the world made the plan of bringing back a lost humanity was perfected.

The condescension of Christ in the Incarnation can only be appreciated as we think of what He left to come to earth. Heaven with its jasper walls, its streets of gold and gates of pearl; Heaven with its songs of angels, its harps of gold and deathless atmosphere, where time never writes a wrinkle on the forehead and death never digs a grave, where flowers never fade, frost does not blight and rivers never freeze. There is no crepe fluttering from the door knob or sad funeral train winding its way up the slopes of the hills, for "there are no graves on the hillsides of glory."

The Condensation

Behold Christ as He started for the Eastern Gate. He turns and waves goodbye to the throne, the temple and the worship of the angels. He leaves that bright and starry world for our world of sin and misery. What amazement must have filled the angels as they saw Him who flung worlds into space, started planets racing on their courses, and set the furnace of the sun on fire, who made all things and upheld all things by His omnipotent power, lay aside His purple robes of royalty, and wrapped in swaddling clothes, hangs helpless in a woman's arm. From the throne to a manger! He put on humanity that we might put on divinity. He was made the Son of Man that we might become the sons of God! He became poor that we might become rich. He walked the streets of Jerusalem that we might walk the streets of the New Jerusalem. He died that we might live and live forever. I am glad that He came to earth. Praise His name.

Marvelous birth.

Marvelous was Christ's birth. Great prophecies were fulfilled. "I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" Gen. 3:15. "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isa. 7: 14). "There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots" (Isa. 11: 1). "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, thou shalt be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be the ruler of Israel: whose goings forth has been from of old, from everlasting (Micah 5:2). These and many other prophecies were fulfilled that you and I might know we are not following cunningly devised fables but holy men of old spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost; that God's word is true and shall come to pass: that as the prophecies of His First Coming were literally fulfilled so will the prophecies of His Second Coming.

At Christ's birth angels sang on the plains of Bethlehem. Heaven was so rapturous with joy because God's great plan of redemption was to be inaugurated in time that it could not contain itself. Over the wall of Heaven and down the slopes of Glory came the angelic host to sing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill to men." Earth must know the joy of Heaven.

A star fixed in its place from the time stars were strung out from the throne of God moved from its place across the heavens to where the young child lay. Wise men came from afar to worship bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Objections Answered

The Incarnation of God is not impossible. It involves miracle but Scripture is based on miracle after miracle. With God all things are possible. The process by which two natures are united in one person is wholly mysterious but not any more so than the combination of spirit and matter, mind and body in man. If the one is not impossible why the other?

The Incarnation of God is not improbable. All religion, fable and philosophy has expressed the expectation of this. This is a natural instinct as man cannot be satisfied with the manifestations of God in nature. A few philosophers and thinkers say they are satisfied with nature as an expression of God but for most cases the heart is left unsatisfied.

The Christ of God can only be explained on the ground that He was God manifest in the flesh. The confession of friends and foes is that He is the only perfect man. All His actions and words are in harmony with the fact that He was God manifest in the flesh. There is nothing in His age, home or contemporaries to produce a perfect man.

Why Christ came

Christ came to the world to show us God. He was God tabernacled among men. He could say, "he that hath seen me hath seen the father." He did only those things that pleased the father in order to show us the Father's purpose and love. As He spoke to the fallen, cheered the discouraged, healed the sick, and died for the sinner, we see revealed the loving heart of God.

Christ was incarnate to show what man ought to be. Jesus was the perfect image of God.

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The Promise of Physical Healing

By Rev. L. T. Culp

Divine healing is a subject of great importance these days. It is one of the fundamentals of the Word of God, and it is a definite provision for the Lord's people to be delivered from all their physical pain. The subject becomes paramount when we consider the fact that sickness and disease are on the steady increase in all parts of the world, and the curse of many ailments is reaching out like the long arms of an octopus to seize humanity. Hospitals are being multiplied and all are crowded with a constant stream of patients. An army of physicians, surgeons and nurses is steadily growing to meet the demand of the afflicted for relief from pain. Medical science has made many remarkable advances in the past decade, and much has been accomplished to relieve vast multitudes of their afflictions. There are still, however, thousands of cases that are considered incurable and past any human aid.

It is with joy, therefore, that we are able to turn to the Scriptures and read that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever." What a glorious message this is to so many who need deliverance from their pain. A casual reading of the Bible will reveal to us that when Jesus Christ was on earth He had a love for the sick folk and that He healed all that were afflicted, and cast out evil spirits with His word.

The Son of God entered the humble home of Peter, only to discover that his wife's mother lay sick of a fever. But it took nothing more than a touch of His hand on her hand to remove the fever, and she arose to care for the house and minister to her Guest.

After delivering the mighty sermon on the mount great multitudes followed Him. At the foot of the mountain a leper cried for the cleansing of the Christ. Said he, "Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean."

Then the cleanest hands of all history were stretched out to touch the vilest and most loathsome of earth diseases, and the leper then and there was made clean.

The Gospel according to St. Matthew tells of a Roman army official, called a centurion, who came to Jesus on behalf of a sick servant who was suffering with palsy. Undoubtedly this was a serious case, for he said that the man was grievously tormented. Jesus offered to come and heal him, but the centurion, being a Gentile, declared that his house was not worthy to be graced with the presence of the Christ of God. He stated that he was a man of authority and to those under him his word was law and demanded obedience. Therefore, if Christ would only speak the word the servant would be healed, for he had confidence that Jesus was authority over all sickness, disease and the power of evil spirits. Christ marvelled at his faith, and bade that it would be done. His servant was healed in that self same hour.

Then there is the narrative of the man who was born blind. Every impediment of his sight was gone when Christ anointed his eyes with the clay that He had made from His own spittle and told him to go and wash in Siloam's pool. The healed man was a conundrum to his neighbors, to his relatives, and to the religious leaders of the day. That which he had received was most definite though, for he said, "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, NOW I SEE."

But there is possibly no more touching account in all scripture than that of the healing of the woman with the issue of blood. For 12 years she had endured the suffering which must have caused indescribable agony. All of this world's goods she possessed had been invested in every known remedy, but it was all in vain. Her case was notorious for many physicians had worked for her, but their treatments had only added to her suffering. She had steadily grown worse and it seemed as though only the merciful hand of death could deliver her from that pain-torn body. The good news that Jesus was in the vicinity reached her one day, and no time was lost in getting as near to Him as possible. The crowd that was following Him was large, but this dear soul got in with that stream of people and kept her eyes on the Saviour, for the thought had flashed through her mind that if she could only touch the border of His garment she would be instantly healed. His presence inspired courage and faith, and elbowing her way through the crowd until she was close to Him, she touched the hem of His garment. INSTANTLY—she felt in her body the healing virtue of Jesus. The bondage of the plague was gone—SHE WAS HEALED. Immediately Jesus stopped to discover who had touched Him. Virtue had gone from His body and He knew that some ailing person had made contact with Him. The disciples argued that there was a large crowd there and that every one was pushing and crowding against Him. But He knew that someone had done so in a peculiar way.

There are many today who touch Him through the crowd, or through the medium of the church. It is sad, but true, that the great majority of so-called 'Christians' have never had any intimate knowledge of Him. They have simply come with many others and their contact with Christ is remote. But happy and blessed is the man, or the woman, who will determine in their hearts that they are going to enjoy a personal definite experience with HIM. To realize that He is the same today, as when He was here on earth nineteen centuries ago, is a great blessing. The first I

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I am to speak to you tonight on a subject that lies close to my heart, a subject that occupies a conspicuous place in the Word of God and one in which every Christian ought to be vitally interested.

There are, of course, many phases of the subject of divine healing but I should like to briefly emphasize God’s attitude toward our bodies.

Evidently God is a strong believer in recovery. This is proven by the way He constructed the human body. When the Creator made the bones of the body, He put within them the principle of spontaneous healing. After a bone has been broken by accident, a doctor may use an X-ray to determine the nature of the fracture, he may set the bones and adjust a cast upon the injured part, but after this he can do no more. Now that strange principle goes to work and the bones begin to knit together and the process continues until the bones are as strong as ever. No doctor can cure a fractured bone. The best he can do is to assist nature and nature is really a manifestation of God.

The self same principle operates in the flesh of the body as well as in the bones. If a person gets a cut or is injured in some way, that gaping wound does not remain so. Again nature begins her miraculous work and the wound begins to heal.

And God has placed in the blood a strange substance known as hemoglobin. But for this, when a wound is sustained, the blood would never stop flowing until the person had died. Without hemoglobin the blood would not clot. God in His marvelous and loving forethought created the blood of our bodies with the greatest care and with immaculate precision because as He Himself tells us, “the life is in the blood.”

Now all of these things prove beyond all question, that God is vitally interested in the recovery of the human body, else He would not have made the bones and the flesh and the blood as He did.

Again, God represents Himself as being the very embodiment of love. Twice in the fourth chapter of the first epistle of John we have the statement, “God is love.” This being the case, surely God delights to relieve His suffering children. Love is pained to see another in pain: it suffers to see another suffer. That fond mother whose child is delirious with a drinking disease would rather endure it herself than to see her child in that condition.

In the third epistle of John we have a very beautiful example of the desire of God for our physical well-being. Here John is speaking by inspiration of the Spirit so that what he says is not just an expression of his heart to the recipient of the epistle but is rather to be considered and accepted as a proof of the attitude of God’s heart toward us all.

John says in this scripture, “Beloved, I wish above all things, that thou mayest prosper and BE IN HEALTH even as thy soul prospereth.” Here we have temporal and physical prosperity expressed as well as spiritual prosperity.

There are many who are thoroughly convinced that God is greatly concerned about our spiritual welfare and our spiritual recovery if we have gotten away from Christ but here in the plainest terms we are given a revelation of God’s concern regarding our bodily welfare.

I believe He wants His people to be a prosperous people. This scripture that I have just read to you, proves that He does. He does not want us to be a defeated, downtrodden, discouraged, dispirited lot of people. Why, He says, “Behold I give unto you power to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Does that sound like defeat? Does that sound as though we are to flee in surrender before the onslough of the hooded hosts of hell? No, indeed. He says, “power over all the power of the enemy.” And that means physically as well as spiritually.

If it is the desire of God that we shall “prosper and be in health,” then indeed we may come to Him with our sicknesses with utmost confidence that He will grant us the touch of healing and will dissipate our aches and pains.

The will of God is always evidenced by His promises. It has been estimated that there are, scattered throughout the pages of the Bible, somewhere about thirty thousand promises and among them we have many that relate directly to the healing of the body. After having given so many promises it is only logical to conclude that God delights to fulfill these promises. If we make a promise, our sense of honesty makes it a pleasure to keep our word and certainly God is not less honest than we are.

There are some who will argue that many of these promises of healing were given to the Israelites and that we have no right to appropriate them to ourselves. But if this is the case then we have no right to take to ourselves any other promise found in the Old Testament. Now we may be sure that the love and concern of God for the children of Israel was not greater than His concern for us who are spiritual Israel and are justified in appropriating these promises for both spirit and body to ourselves.

God never heals us because we deserve healing nor because we are perfect nor because of our good works.
He heals us because He loves us and His love has prompted His precious promises. When He says, "I am the Lord thy physician," (literal translation) Ex. 15:26, and when He says, "I will take sickness away from the midst of thee," Ex. 23:25, and "They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover," and many others, He wants us to feel that we have a direct claim upon the fulfillment of these contracts.

Finally God desires to heal us because He knows more about our bodies than any earthly physician. May I be allowed to link together two verses from the 103rd Psalm. Let me read verses three and fourteen—"Who forgiveth all thine iniquites; who healeth all thy diseases for He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we are dust." That is just it. He delights to heal all our diseases for He knows our frame, that is our body. He remembers that He made us of dust and He is able to minister to us perfectly because of His knowledge.

Very often a faulty diagnosis is rendered by a physician but this is never the case with God. A preacher was called to pray for a child. The physician had been there and had given his opinion that the boy had some trouble in his head. However God showed the preacher that the boy's trouble was in his stomach. He prayed asking God to heal the child's stomach and soon after the boy em­
tied the contents of his stomach and forth came a great green worm about two feet in length. The physician had been mistaken. The boy's trouble was not in his head. God made the true diagnosis.

When a man has a watch that needs repairs he doesn't take it to a blacksmith's shop he takes it to a watch maker. And when the body needs repairs there is no one that can do such a perfect repair job as the body maker.

David said, and most truly so, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." Psalms 108:8 and I trust that everyone in this great audience tonight who is in need of healing may realize that the Lord is personally and deeply interested in each case and He is even now holding out His healing hands to you.

THE NEGLECTED GUEST

(Continued from page 2)

We should all have a dominant or ruling passion in life I am sure. In fact, we all do, only they are not all of noble birth. Our lives would be tame and insipid were there no dynamic which throbbed and stirred us into action. To do the will of God is a very SAFE passion. But too many times the Good is the enemy of the BEST. Often this passion is of good origin and may render commendable service. Many times we have been made ashamed of our devotion to Christ and His service when we have seen the devotion and attention an artist pays to his music or art. Music sometimes is a passion which runs away with the Christian and unconsciously the dear one is deceived in the thought, "it is all for His service." It may be STUDY. Such a passion for study (even for His Word) may do damage when the letter killeth and the soul becomes absorbed in the theoretical side of the message. An uncontrolled or unbalanced desire for study and more knowledge have closed the doors of more than one student's heart to the "fuller revelation of the Spirit."

BUSINESS is often a passion or objective in the life of a Christian. It so occupies the heart and attention that the inn of life is cluttered with business propositions and adventures. Matt. 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you."

SERVICE may so fill the inn that He, the very One we serve, is sadly neglected. Let us always remember that the worker is greater than any work he may do. There are times when the individual heart and personal attention are the desired por­
tions Christ seeks. Did you ever notice in the Revelation the salutations or greetings of Christ to each of the Churches? It is as though their works were the first things to be brought up for recognition. He instantly brushes them aside with the one remark for each—"I know thy works—" and proceeds at once to the personal attitude and responsibility. You remember when the Temple became too cluttered, He cleansed it. It is good to know that the hand that used the scourge is a pierced hand.

Misjudgment

Another reason I have found which fills the inn of one's life is a misjudgment of Christ's purpose in seeking a fuller entrance. Sometimes I find a heart with an unsharable secret of a difficulty in which one does not think the Lord could be at all interested. I have not time to develop this thought here, but it is worth a good meditation. I wish you might know in your hearts that God is love. Christ does not intrude upon our personal lives to rob us or make us unhappy. He comes to bless. We do not understand His motives and purposes and so do not have the faith to trust Him. Unbelief and self-pity sink back into the inns of our hearts and when He seeks an entrance, we feebly say, "no room in the inn."

We may not want to insult Him. We may, in our refusal, treat Him with courtesy and respect. Many dear hearts today would not do Him an indignity. But alas—when He knocks we fail and through neglect and indifference we pave the way to loss and tragedy.

It is Christmas time and again He is seeking. Shall we not for a time consider prayerfully the hindrances which clutter the inns of our lives? Let us not repeat the sin of the innkeeper, but joyfully and wholeheartedly say,

"Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, There's room in my heart for Thee."

—Sel.
The Personality of the Divine Comforter

By Donald Gee

The Gospel according to John. I want to link together three well known passages: John 14, 16 and 17—"I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him, but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you." John 15:26—"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me." John 16:7—"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter, will not come unto you; but if I depart I will send Him unto you." The Comforter, the Comforter, the Comforter. Hallelujah.

I feel tonight that my Master wants me to emphasize the fact of the personality of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a Person, and He has a lovely name, "the Comforter." I find in my life, and it may be so with you, that there is a danger of emphasizing the thought of power until we lose sight of the truth of the personality. We dwell (and I do not wonder we dwell) on that glorious promise "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." We are, however, in danger of beginning to regard that power in a mechanical sense. Power, yes, spiritual power, but that power is a Person, and I am happy tonight to stand here and emphasize the personality of the Holy Spirit. If we are not careful, we can be praying for power in much the same way as the world covets its power, simply because we want to be successful, successful preachers, and in special lines of activity we want power. It is a person, the Comforter. We can even desire power for the mere thrill of feeling it, for there is a thrill in feeling power. The power is a personality. Hallelujah.

Although we rightly dwell on the fact that the Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of all that "Jesus began both to do and to teach," the biggest note about the Lord Jesus was not what He did. It was His personality: and although we want the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives that there might be a continuation of what Jesus did and said through us, yet most of all that there might be a continuation of what Jesus was through us, until those who know us feel that Jesus is living in us. That is why I rejoice that the power of Pentecost is not an impersonal force, but thank God it is a personality, — the Comforter. Hallelujah.

Is this lovely revival we stand for the glorious truth of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. One or two have been in evidence today. Thank God they are manifestations of the Spirit. It simply means that through the glorious baptism of the Holy Ghost we have become temples of the Holy Ghost. "I will dwell in them and walk in them." Every real gift of the Spirit is not a manifestation of you at all, but the manifestation of the divine personality come to live in the heart and life of the believer, Hallelujah. Thank God in these things there is no room for boasting. It is not us, it is the Lord of Glory.

For a few minutes I want to explain the doctrine. I want to draw your attention to

The Personal Pronouns Used in these passages. Our Lord referred in these passages to the Comforter, as "He" and "Him," so evidently He is talking about a Person. Would you think it right of me if I referred to the Christian as "It!" It is a good chap! It would be an insult. We refer to the Holy Spirit in that way, but Jesus said He, Him.

In the Acts of the Apostles we find Him acting as a person speaking. He says to Philip, "Join thyself to the chariot"; to Peter, "Do not be afraid to go with this man, I have sent thee." He still speaks.

He has a mind. I wish we always had it. They, in the Acts of the Apostles, had a church meeting, and when they got through all their disputing, there is a lovely finish, for in the end they registered their decision in these lovely words, "It seemed good to the Holy Ghost and to us." Isn't it lovely? He has a mind.

There is a passage in one of Paul's epistles where he speaks about "grieving the Spirit of God." Have you ever been grieved? He is a personality that can be grieved. Let us remember that. I always remember one scene as I was travelling over the Pacific. There was a daughter travelling with her father. The father was well up in years, but the poor fellow was a slave to drink, yet a refined man. Day after day he was the worse for drink, and how I pitied that daughter. She tried to be loyal to him. She would lead him out of the dining saloon. She would try to hide him in the cabin. Poor woman, how I pitied her; she was grieved. If my life is not according to holiness, I am grieved. Somebody very truly.

Then there is that great verse in John 16:7, "It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come." I can imagine them looking at Him in amazement. "You have shared our meals, you have prayed with us on the hillside, you have talked to us and been with us, and you say it is better for you to go away." It could not be better for Him to go if the Holy Spirit were not a person. If we had Jesus here as He was in the days of His flesh. He could only be in one place at a time. But the Comforter can be with us everywhere.
There is a lot of talk about guidance, but I have discovered there is something better than guidance. I have discovered

**There is a Guide.**

I remember when I was making my journey to China and I had to find my way from the coast, our beloved field secretary, Brother Wood, wrote me a letter full of guidance. He told me just what to do in every place; told me the tricks they would play on me; what time to get up. He told me so much that I got scared. I pored over it on the voyage, and the more I pored over it and the guidance, the more scared I got.

When I landed at Hong Kong, there was dear Brother Osgood, one of our choice American Assemblies of God missionaries. He said, “I am going up to—; travel with me.” God had something better for me than guidance. I had a guide! He did it all. I leaned back, and my guide delivered me safe at the journey’s end. I have something better than guidance. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” The very Book would be closed if I had not the Spirit. I have got the Book and the Spirit, the guidance and the Guide. I bless God for the glorious truth of the personality of the Holy Spirit.

The only other thing for me to do is to speak about the glorious experience of it. We are not only talking doctrine, we are talking experience. We are not explaining theology, but the people we are talking to can check up whether we are speaking the truth or not, and we are all enjoying it together. We are talking about something we have got. We only want to enlarge upon our enjoyment that God might be glorified.

So I want to speak for the last part of my talk about

**The Enjoyment of the Experience**

of the personality of the Holy Spirit. I am glad He has got a name—the “Comforter,” and all these preachers on the platform know the Greek word is Paraclete, and that means

“one called alongside.” In one place the word is translated Advocate, but I am going to keep tonight to that lovely name, Comforter.

There are three lines of experience by which his personality is so very precious to our hearts. The first is help, one called alongside to help, and when you have got a helper, isn’t it a relief. I suppose that is the thought behind the word advocate. You know if you have got a job on in Court and you could not defend your own case, wouldn’t it be lovely to have an advocate. You have just to lean back and leave it all with Him. I have One in heaven and He is pleading for me there. How lovely that I have got One whom I can call alongside to help me.

The other day I had an interesting experience in my car near Bedford. I was figuring I would be in nice time for dinner, but suddenly my back axle broke, and I could not move an inch. I thought: Donald Gee, you are in a mess. I am a member of the A. A., and I lifted up my heart in prayer and I asked the Lord to send along an A. A. man to me quick. Soon two came and they looked at my axle. My word, they were comforters! “Oh,” they said, “we can fix that. We can just slide that out and slide it in.” I said, “Fine, get on with it.” I just strolled off and had a lovely time by the river and came back just as they were finishing the job. After all, that is just a simple illustration of what the Holy Ghost wants to be in our lives. I am a member of the greatest Association in the universe, the Church of the living God, and my subscription has been paid, not by me, but by Another with His own precious blood, and the privileges of membership are greater than the heart of man can conceive. When I get a breakdown I send a message, and I am glad there is One who comes alongside to help, the Comforter, the Paraclete. I would to God we could

**Learn to Rest More**

in the Christian life. We work, struggle, strive, and when you kneel down in prayer beside some of us, you can almost hear the machinery, yet the Lord has said, “We which have believed do enter into rest.” The other day I was struggling, and the Lord reminded me, “He is made unto us of God wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption,” and I leant back again in Jesus and took Him for my holiness. It is still the grand old way of faith.

Then the Comforter affords encouragement. It is a sweet thing to encourage. The other day I was dipping into Lloyd George’s reminiscences of the war and I was struck by one passage where Lloyd George bore a splendid testimony to the value of King George V, saying where there was special need he was always there to encourage. When there was that awful explosion at Silvertown, the next day the King and Queen were there. I am glad the King of kings is our great encourager. Where the battle is difficult, He is on the spot encouraging. He is doing it through the person of the blessed Holy Spirit, the Comforter. “It is expedient that I go away, and if I go away I will send the Encourager,” and I am glad the Encourager has come.

The last thing is that sweetest name of all, Comforter. Perhaps we think there will never be any more dark days, but there will, so I am glad that when I need comfort I have a Comforter. This makes me feel that He is a friend, and when I need comfort most of all. He is right by my side. It sometimes seems difficult to reduce the doctrine of the Holy Spirit to terms that could come within the reach of the man in the street, yet I believe that the simplest way to look at it is, that the Holy Spirit is just

**God is My Life.**

God with us day by day and hour by hour. Oh how He speaks comfort.

I see dear brother Berulden with us on the platform today. I am thinking of that awful journey that I had (Continued on page 14)
SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Once again Bethel Home sends forth its Christmas Greetings and best wishes to ALL its many friends and supporters, who have so nobly stood by us this past year of 1938. Truly this has been a wonderful year of blessings innumerable, and love abounding. We thank God for a Christian Home. No serious sickness or death, but His mercy has followed us through sunshine and shadows.

Two big events have come and gone—the New England District Camp-meeting, here on the grounds, where it was our privilege and delight to meet and fellowship hundreds of the dear saints from all over the land, and many dear missionaries from other fields, to which the Lord has called them in His Blessed Service. The memory of those meetings lingers with us yet, and we are looking for greater things next summer should Jesus tarry. Then the great hurricane, which did such great damage all over New England, visited us too, and did considerable damage to the property, and left us in darkness for a couple of weeks. But thank God no one was hurt or killed in the family. So we feel it our duty as well as our great privilege to rejoice this Blessed Christmas Season, and give thanks to Him who left His Heavenly Estate and became a man and dwelt with us on earth, that we might leave our earthly estate and become the Sons of God to dwell with Him forever.

I wish to thank our friends in behalf of the Bethel Home Family: Brother and Sister Douglass and the Saints of the Chelsea Full Gospel Church, for remembering us at Thanksgiving time by bringing us a 17 lb. turkey and money to buy the fixings. We surely had a Spirit of Thanksgiving in our hearts when we saw the kindness of Our Lord, working through His dear children, and were reminded of those blessed words He spoke, “In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me.”

Evangelist Beth Beckley was with us a few days after returning from a campaign in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, and is now gone to Pastor the church in Malden for a time. We are believing God for a successful ministry for our sister in her new field of labor.

—A. Wight, Supt.

SPECIAL POEM TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS

Christmas Acrostic

A
Another MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!
M
y children I wish you, with others so dear:
E
ach sweet Christmas Carol sounding forth seems to say—
R
“ejoice all Creation! It’s our Saviour’s Birthday!”
Y
outh is renewed—minus folly and strife:
C
onstrained by that love thrilling every true soul,
H
ow gladly we yield to His righteous control!
I
ock of Ages,” our only Foundation is He,
S
mage of God”—“King of Glory” to be!
E
hepherd of Israel” and blest “King of Kings!”
T
he Lord strong in battle” and “Heir of all things!”
M
an of Sorrows” was He when the “winepress” He trod,
A
 lone” in Gethsemane, prevailing with God!
S
alvation He purchased for all who believe,
A
nd satisfies all who His offers receive.
N
ever failing is He—our “Mediator,” “Messiah,”
D “ail!” “Light of the Gentiles!” “Hail!” “Lord over All!”
H “Counsellor” to all who upon Thee will call!
A “Prince of Peace,” “Most Mighty” and worthy Thy crown!
P “Prince of Life,” “Wonderful,” and “Plant of Renown!”
Y “new joys with Salvation, as the Father designed!
E “exchange, then, ye slothful, the “chaff for the wheat,”
W “hy live on the husks when there’s “soul food” to eat?
Y “ou’re welcomed by Him who provided the Feast,
E “at. Drink and be Merry,” come greatest or least!
R “ill things are now ready!” No time for delay!
A “espond every soul who is halting today!
T “oday! yes, today, if you hear His sweet voice,
O “Harden not your heart,” but make Him your choice!
U “ielded to Him fully without doubt or fear,
“our hearts will beat “Merry” all filled with good cheer!
H united to Him through an endless “New Year!”


He spoke, “In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me.”

Evangelist Beth Beckley was with us a few days after returning from a campaign in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, and is now gone to Pastor the church

The Great Tribulation

By Eminent Bible Teachers

This book gives a brief explanation of the prophecies on The Great Tribulation as found in the Book of Revelation. Price 20c plus 3c postage.
Report From
EASTERN BIBLE INSTITUTE
Green Lane, Pa.

E. B. I. wishes to keep its many friends informed of the progress which is being made. To date we have thirty four students with young men slightly in the majority. There are a few new prospects for the second semester which will begin about the third week in January.

We have a teaching staff of seven, two of whom drive in once a week. The others are resident teachers. This year we are offering the regular first and second year course similar to C. B. I. and next year the third year will be added.

E. B. I. has three departments. One is the full eight months of study which we call the Regular Course. Then we have a Home Study Course which is taken by correspondence at a nominal charge, particulars of which will be given on application. A third department has now been introduced which we call Extension Classes of E. B. I. These are taught in the city of Philadelphia on two nights a week.

We have a field representative, Sister Josephine Kaye Williams, who is a member of the Camden Church, N. J. Sister Williams ministers in the Word, and presents up-to-date reports of the school to the assemblies of the three districts.

Outstation work is being developed. The Bible School holds services in Quakertown and assists in a Mission in Lansdale, two nearby towns. We are negotiating for other open-ings, and every effort will be made to give our full Gospel message to the territory surrounding the school.

Our accommodations are very limited, but we are doing the best we can for this year. The one pressing need is a new building which should be built by next fall to hold at least one hundred students. This could be erected in simple style and added to as the need arose. Sufficient land is available, but funds are needed. The promise of a large sum of money was made last summer, and made known to the public, but thus far something has hindered and we have not received the same.

E. B. I. is the hope for the future of the churches of the Three Districts. A good knowledge of the Word coupled with holy living and vital faith, is the standard we uphold, and to prepare consecrated young men and women along such lines holds promise for a rich ministry in the days to come for all parts of our three districts. We wish to build a simple but substantial structure. This calls for an investment of money which would be well spent on the lives of our young people, and reaped in future benefits through the ministry they will render to the various churches.

This is a challenge! It is a call to everyone to do his or her bit! Many small gifts would soon total up and enable us to break ground before the winter sets in. Can we count on you? Pray about it and send your gifts to the treasurer, Rev. Edwin C. Sikes, 570 Walnut St., Camden, N. J.

—Your fellow laborer, ALLEN A. SWIFT.

CLAREMONT, N. H.

During the week of the 27th of November God was good to us in an especial way. Brother Joseph Matolinsa (evangelist and chairman of Russian - Ukrainian Assemblies in cooperation with the council) held special meetings.

We can truthfully say that it was one of the best times of spiritual up-lift and blessing that the church has had in a long time. Many young people were brought closer to the Lord as well as the older folks. Many who lost their desire for prayer were found at the altar seeking God from the heart. Our brother under the power and the leading of the Holy Ghost brought forth messages which exactly fitted in with the needs of the assembly. In all we report that the Lord truly blessed us and revived many hearts. At present there is a hunger among the young people for the Baptism in the Holy Ghost. We feel that God will pour out His Spirit any moment, for He plainly said that "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."

We are also glad to report that one of our unsaved young men attended Sister Hattie Hammond's special meetings in Everett, and when he came home with a shining face he said, "I got saved." Praise the Lord.

We cherish the prayers of the saints for wisdom, power and guidance in the blessed work of the glorious Gospel. —In Christ, Bro. and Sis. Fred Smolchuck.

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—Alfred Wight, Treas.

Make all payments to:
CHRISTIAN WORKERS' UNION, INC.,
7 Auburn St. Framingham, Mass.
EVERETT, MASS.

We truly thank God for His rich blessing on our special services under Sister Hattie Hammond's ministry which closed Sunday, November 27th.

About 15 or 18 backsliders and sinners sought salvation and 8 or 9 were baptized in the Holy Ghost.

The revival fire continues to burn. Last Sunday December 4th we had two great meetings with two seeking salvation. —W. J. Mitchell, Pastor.

NOTICE—Evangelist J. Lucie Kenney was struck by an automobile—her legs and ribs badly broken. She would be pleased to have her friends and sisters in the Lord write. Address: Evangelist J. Lucie Kenney, Flushing Hospital, Flushing, N. Y.

THE PERSONALITY OF THE DIVINE COMFORTER
(Continued from page 11)

to get to his station in China. I had a nightmare of a journey. We began at 6 in the morning and we had to wait till 10:30 till the train came in. We got on the train and so did about 600 Chinese, and when they could not get in at the door they got in at the window. We started on the journey, and by noon we got to the foot of the Nanking pass, and we shunted on the side while a troop train went through. My interpreter told them I was an Englishman, and the English are not popular there just now. That did not help a scrap. Some of them made rather suggestive signs with their hands of what they would like to do to me. I shut my eyes and prayed, and after three hours (3 o'clock in the afternoon) we were still there, and at half past three the brother gave me the comforting information that we should be there all night. I thought my nerves would snap. I was certainly in a very trying position, and about 4 o'clock in the afternoon I cried to the Lord. I got desperate and cried, "Lord, help me," and then I suppose I had one of the loveliest experiences of all my life, for the Comforter spoke to me, and He only said five words, but as clear as an evening bell the Comforter said in my heart, "I will take you through." He inexpressibly comforted my soul. I was not surprised when at half past four the train slowly began to move, and about 11 o'clock at night I turned up at my destination. It was worth it to have that lovely experience. I am glad we have got a Friend, a Guide, a Comforter with us to dwell. My only question is, are you going on the journey without Him or have you invited Him in. If you have never asked Him to come in, ask Him tonight, and He will come and make your whole life glad with the glory of His presence.

—Exch.

GOD UNRECOGNIZED AND UNWANTED
(Continued from page 1)

Called in the Jewish Clergy.

Not a mere individual, nor even two or three persons, "he gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together," believing that "in the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Prov. 11:14). These men promptly remembered Micah 5:2, although they rather paraphrased than quoted the passage to the King. (Those were not days of pocket Bibles, which every Christian should now carry). Now Micah 5:2 tells us that it was no mere King for David's throne who was to be born in Bethlehem, but God Himself. "Thou, Bethlehem-Ephratah, though thou be little amongst the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose going forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

Fearful Conclusion! The eternal God has deigned to visit this little world, and was not wanted! Neither the testimony of the shepherds in Luke 2, nor the Scripture cited by the priests in Matt. 2, sent worshipping crowds to Bethlehem! God not wanted in His own world!

More than thirty years pass away, and we are again in Jerusalem. Our Lord's hearers would stone Him because He said: "I and the Father are one!" But He asked them: "Many good works have I showed you from My Father: for which of these do ye stone Me?" The Jews answered Him: "For a good work we stone Thee not: but for blasphemy; and because that Thou, being a man, makest Thyself God" (John 10:30-33).

A little later the High Priest with the council around him, challenged Him: "Art Thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" And Jesus said: "I am" (Mark 14:61-62). Forward now to Pilate's Judgment Hall. Hear His accusers: "We have a law, and by our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God" (John 18:7).

The issue was quite clear. God was on earth in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, and men were determined to get rid of Him at any cost.

The Cost has been Terrific in blood and treasure, in broken hearts and countless graves. Neither the Jews nor the nations knew the time of their visitation (Luke 19:44). The world did not recognize its Creator, and His own special people refused to receive Him (John 1:10-11). "They have sown the wind and they reap the whirlwind" (Hosea 8:7). Nineteen centuries of grief and pain have been man's experience as the terrible fruit of their rejection of Him who came in grace, and the end is not yet. Dark clouds hang over the nations and nothing will dispel them, for the day of reckoning hastens on. The passions of men will be divinely let loose, and men will themselves destroy all that they have built up and loved (Rev. 6).

But

The Rejected One will Come Again.

Three thousand years ago, the Psalmist wrote: "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence" (Psa. 50:3). Israel will welcome Him then. "It shall be said on that day: 'Lo, this is our God. we have waited for Him, and He will save us, this is Jehovah;
we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation” (Isa. 25:9). A mighty work of the Holy Spirit is necessary ere Israel can speak thus.

The “appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13) will revolutionize everything here. With overwhelming power He will sweep the earth clean of all that is offensive in His sight. Then, when the last of the dispensations has run its course (the thousand years glorious reign) all evil having been subdued, God will be “all in all” (1 Cor. 15:28). Never again through the eternal ages will the divine supremacy be challenged, neither in Heaven above, nor in earth beneath. Result—“there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Rev. 21:4).

THE PROMISE OF PHYSICAL HEALING
(Continued from page 7)
ever heard of it was nearly 25 years ago. He has healed my body many times and as long as time lasts I will praise Him for what He has done for me. I have seen hundreds healed during my ministry, of every conceivable affliction and disease.

If the Word of God is obeyed, as directed in James 5:13-16, we have every right to expect His healing touch upon our bodies, making them completely whole. After you have read this scripture allow me to say there is no virtue in the elder’s hand, but there is in the hands of Jesus, that were pierced for you. As His servants we lay our hands on in faith that His hand will also be laid on you, and you will recover.

The Bible is full of promises to sick folk. Read Exodus 15:26, Psa. 103:3, Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 8:17, and many other references through the Word. What more need be said? Please remember my reader—The Bible is the “WORD” of God. God has revealed Himself as the ALL-sufficient ONE, who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think. So come in faith ALL ye that are sick and afflicted. Whether your ailment is of a minor or major nature, REMEMBER, HE is just the same today, and He will heal you NOW!

The Incarnation
(Continued from page 6)

ect man. Manhood was raised to glorious heights in the person of Christ. His enemies and friends down through the ages must confess, “I find no fault in Him.” Precept will often fail where example triumphs. His manhood has been the inspiration of countless millions.

Christ was born in Bethlehem to die on Calvary. He obeyed the law of God in a nature that had broken the law and died as an atonement for sin. Only the sinless God-Man could atone for sin. So captive sinners are redeemed from sin, “Sin shall have no more dominion;” from Satan for “the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet;” from the world, for Christ said, “I have overcome the world;” and from wrath, for Christ “hath delivered us from wrath to come.”

Christ was born that man might have a sympathetic and powerful mediator. He knows by actual experience the sorrows, disappointments and heartaches of life. He is now a High Priest that is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. He was hungry, thirsty, weary with toil and forsaken by friends. Cold chilled Him and fire warmed Him. He was flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone so He could be our sympathetic High Priest. Just now He pleads in sympathy and love for His own. He knows our frame and remembers that we are but dust. He will carry the lambs in His bosom and deal in special kindness with those in trial.

Christ was Incarnate to open the gates of heaven and glorify man. The birth of Christ made possible our new birth into the family of God and an inheritance that fadeth not away.

At this Christmas time let us think more of the great Gift. May the Spirit of God make us grateful for all Christ brought to mankind from Heaven. The Incarnation, God manifest in the flesh, was to reveal the Father, to give man a perfect example, to live and die to save man, to be a sympathetic and powerful High Priest and bring many to Heaven. O come let us adore Him.

MY FATHER’S LOVE GIFT
(Continued from page 3)
might become partakers of His Divine nature, and fit to dwell with Him forever. This reveals the reason why we now love the very things that He loves, and hate all those things which He hates. When asked by modernistic agnostics whose son was He that was born in Bethlehem, we boldly declare with Peter, “Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God.”

At the present time it looks as if before another Christmas rolls around that the wrath of Satan may throw the nations again into a cataclysm of war. Let us make sure that our lamps are kept daily trimmed and brightly burning with plenty of oil in our vessels, that should He come, we shall not be ashamed and be left behind.

Wishing all true Christmas joys in a richer, fuller fellowship with Him.

—Glad Tidings

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