

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

No. 70

December 2017

All Gifts In One!

Soon the Christmas season will be upon us. Our homes and the malls will once again be filled with the sounds of Christmas music, a combination of secular and spiritual. As the gentle music of "Peace on earth, good will to men" falls again on human ears, what will men and women be thinking?

To some, the thing that will most strike their minds is the contrast between those appealing chimes of "Peace on earth, good will to men" and the present state of the world with its seething rivalries and hostility, its international suspicions and crooked governments, its bitter factions and frictions, and its disturbing fears. The supreme irony is that although the cure for all the world's problems lie wrapped up in that little Babe of Bethlehem, the nations do not want it and are seeking hopeless remedies elsewhere.

There are millions to whom these songs will signify nothing of vital spiritual significance, nothing beyond the pleasant symbolism of an annual festive celebration. We have so spoiled the annual observance by aggressive buying and selling, planning parties, rushing to and fro, that many people cannot see Christ for Christmas. They forget the Saviour is the "reason for the season". Their thoughts are more on preparing the Christmas dinner, decorating the tree, attending parties, buying gifts etc.

Of all the seasons of the year, Christmas is distinctively that of gift-giving. The exchanging of gifts has reached a point where it is overdone even though the original idea behind it is beautiful. It originates from the fact that Christmas celebrates God's unspeakable gift (2 Cor. 9:13), which is Christ, the Saviour of the world (Jn. 4:42; 1 Jn. 4:14). If only people had their minds gratefully occupied with that supreme and divine gift.

Thank God there are still those across the world to whom Christmas still means what it was originally intended to mean. As they ponder again the profound mystery of divine love which Christmas commemorates, they will celebrate God's unspeakable gift, the birth of "a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Lk. 2:11).

God not only gave His Son to the world, but for it (Jn. 3:16). That meant:

- a) His birth in a manger (stable) at Bethlehem (Lk. 2:7, 12, 16)
- b) The carpenter's bench (Mk. 6:3)
- c) The being tempted in all points like as we are (Heb. 4:15)
- d) The suffering of reproach and the being "acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3)
- e) The shame and the spitting (Isa. 50:6)
- f) The purple robe and the crown of thorns (Jn. 19:2, 5)
- g) The nails and the spear (Jn. 19:34; 20:25)
- h) The awful darkness (Matt. 27:45, Mk. 15:33)

- i) And the tasting of death (Jn. 19:33)

Paul the apostle said, “He spared not His own Son” (Rom. 8:32). Was ever a gift like the Saviour given?

- a) He left the beauty of heaven for the manger (Lk. 2:7, 12, 16) and the work-bench, having “not where to lay His head” (Matt. 8:20; Lk. 9:58).
- b) He laid aside His majestic robes of glory for the peasant dress and the purple robe (Jn. 19:2, 5).
- c) He put aside His sceptre of universal sovereignty for the reed of mock royalty in Pilate’s judgment hall (Jn. 18:33, 19:8-16)
- d) He left the throne of heaven for the Cross (Jn. 19:17; Heb. 12:2)
- e) He who is the Prince of life bowed His head in death (Mk. 15:37; Lk. 23:46; Jn. 19:30).
- f) He who is without sin became the Sin-bearer (Heb. 9:28).
- g) The Son of God became the Crucified (Matt. 27:35; Lk. 23:33; Jn. 19:18).
- h) He who is the Father’s delight became the God-forsaken (Matt. 27:46; Mk. 15:34).
- i) He comes, He toils, He hungers and thirsts, He weeps, He suffers, He bleeds and dies.
- j) For God so loved the world that He “gave” His only begotten Son (Jn. 3:16).

In giving Christ, God gives us all things in Him. By accepting this gift God offers forgiveness for all our sins, but we must receive Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour for God’s forgiveness comes to us in Him. It not only brings cleansing, it brings:

- a) Peace with God (Rom. 5:1)
- b) The assurance of salvation (Rom. 10:9)
- c) The gift of eternal life (Jn. 3:15; 10:28; Rom. 6:23; 1 Jn. 5:11, 13)
- d) Power to overcome evil habits and strong temptations (1 Cor. 10:13)
- e) Courage to confess the Saviour before men (Matt. 10:32; Lk. 12:8)
- f) Spiritual equipment for service (Eph. 4:8)
- g) Fellowship with God (1 Jn. 1:3)
- h) Joy and comfort and hope (Psa. 16:11; Rom. 5:2; 15:4, 13; 2 Cor. 1:3)
- i) A mansion in the Father’s house (Jn. 14:1-3)
- j) An inheritance among them that are born again (Acts 26:18)

Not one of these blessings is given to us as a thing by itself. They are all included in the one comprehensive gift of the only begotten Son of God. God has freely given all things to us in Him.

Many think they can earn salvation by living a good life, by supposed good works and so-called Christian service, or by praying and weeping for it through days of anxious concern about their souls. We can’t pay for it and we can’t work for it. This is sheer folly. Scripture says, “That whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16). Jesus Christ is God’s free gift to us. All we have to do is gratefully receive Him, and by so doing, we are saved.

What wonderful hope the Incarnation brings to us as sinful human individuals. The angel said to Joseph, “Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall SAVE His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). Soon afterwards the angels were singing over the fields of Bethlehem, “Unto you is born this day a SAVIOUR, which is Christ the Lord” (Lk. 2:11).

Oh what a Gospel this brings to us needy human sinners. He is no longer the Babe of Bethlehem, no longer the wee lad of Nazareth, no longer the young Prophet of Galilee, no longer on the Cross or in the grave. He is the ever-living Saviour who this minute stands at the heart’s door of every unconverted person saying, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Rev. 3:20).

Let us be looking heavenward with the eyes of our hearts, and saying again with the apostle Paul, “Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift”. Let us observe it with happiness, with softened hearts, and prayerful praise. Let us pray that the true meaning of Christmas may break upon human hearts this year as never before.

Not even God a greater gift could give,
Nor heav’n itself a dearer boon impart;
When Jesus came, and died that I might live,
God gave without reserve His very heart.

. . . . Yvonne Vernon



www.scripturaltruths.org

e-mail: scripturaltruths1@shaw.ca

If you don't wish to receive future Newsletters, please send us an email and we will take your name off the Mailing List.

If you change your e-mail address, please forward your new one so that we can update our Mailing List.