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MISSIONARY REVIVALIST SELECTIONS

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CHRISTMAS TIME Elbert Dodd

This is the time we praise God for the marvelous birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, born of a virgin in a lowly manger. The Christian is the happiest person on earth, and should be; and this day, Christmas day, the day we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is the high day in the year for every Christian.

Jesus was promised by God Himself. In Isaiah 7:14 we read: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son. and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil and choose the good." Also in Isaiah 11:1, "... there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots." Then over in the New Testament we have the beautiful story of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Matthew 1:18. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man. and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son. and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done. that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel. which being interpreted is. God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."

We read on in Matthew 2:1, "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." Then in Luke 2:1, "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed With Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not" for behold. I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

To me this is the most beautiful story that was ever written. I am happy today to know that I am a Christian, that I can believe every word of this without any question. Thank God for Christmas time. Thank God for the birth of Jesus, the only-begotten Son of God. He is our Saviour, Sanctifier and Soon-coming King.

He was born in a manger, lived among men, performed miracles, saved souls, died on the cross, was buried in a borrowed tomb, ascended to the father, and today is on the right hand of the Father; but He is coming back, not to be born in a manger. He is coming as King of kings and Lord of lords.

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EDITORIAL

By I. Parker Maxey

THE BULWARKS OF HOLINESS

(Continued from last issue)

II. Maintaining the proper ethics of holiness. The Holy Ghost is the great umpire of the soul. In Colossians 3:15 we read: "Let the peace of God rule (be the umpire) of your hearts." It is the Holy Ghost that "calls the plays" and He does this in harmony with His revealed word. Christian ethics has to do with the proper outer expression of an inner heart experience. We express ourselves outwardly through our moods, our words, our dress, our conduct. Christian

conduct as revealed in the Word needs to be faithfully proclaimed by God's called and ordained ministers. This is necessary in order to instruct the saints in the will of God. Many, because of their background, precious teaching and ignorance of the Word, fall short of Bible standards of holy living. People who insist that if the heart is right the external will take care of itself (without the preacher "harping on it") are people who know they are not measuring up and don't intend to. But when Bible standard is upheld the sanctified heart says a deep "amen" and the outer life is immediately brought into harmony with this voice of the Holy Spirit. God does not have a double standard. On the other hand, when the heart is "yet carnal" the anointed preaching of the word is passed off as man's opinion and a "double standard" of holy living (?) appears. But we insist -- this is not "another standard" (as you see it) of holiness, but the "will-worship" spirit of Cain. Why was he wroth and why did not God accept him if he was so right? We read in Isaiah 58:1, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins." This certainly reveals the preacher's obligation and duty to proclaim the standards of holy living.

An inner heart experience of holiness expresses itself in proper moods. Although there may be "heaviness through manifold temptations," and burdens that weigh on the heart of the sanctified because of a lost world the sanctified live above carnal moodiness. Subject to moods? Yes, but not enslaved by them. God's sanctified saints have been a shouting, victorious, joyful band. They have joyed in the midst of their losses -- "took joyfully the spoiling of their goods" -- rejoiced in temptations -- "counted it all joy when they have fallen into divers temptations." "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stall: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (Hab. 3:17, 18). This has always been the language of God's sanctified saints. It is human to be subject to moods, but the sanctified have learned to cultivate the fixedness of purpose, the steadfastness of faith, that quiet, almost rhythmic, performance of duty, which has chastened their moods and cleansed them from their fierce wildness, bringing them into keeping with the total pattern of a sanctified heart and purpose. The sanctified learn to transcend the moods which they cannot entirely elude and are able to avoid the temptation to "let their moods show." Undisciplined moodiness is carnal.

An inner heart experience of holiness expresses itself in proper words. Positively, holiness is an expressive experience. One of the peculiar, outstanding effects of Pentecost was the loosing of their tongues and the speaking forth of those wondrous works of God that had taken place in their hearts. It will do the same today. Jesus said, "out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit)" (John 7:38,39). William James said, "No worthy impression should be left without expression. Impression minus expression equals depression. The vision must have a voice or it will fade. The unacknowledged blessing withers in the heart. The shut-in flame goes out for want of a draft." Negatively, holiness is a restraining experience. "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (Jas. 1:26). "Regardless of how carefully controlled a person is at all other points, none can qualify for the high rating of a truly disciplined character whose tongue is not restrained by the bridle of prudence and directed by the reins of love. . . One may have a disciplined body, a disciplined mind, a disciplined will, even disciplined emotions, appetites, and habits, but a loose tongue betrays a fatal fault in the armor. The character is defective." (This Disciplined Life, Richard S. Taylor, page 34.)

An inner heart experience of holiness expresses itself in proper dress. "Our people are to dress with the Christian simplicity and modesty that becometh holiness. "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shame-facedness and sobriety; not with broided hair or gold or pearls or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works" (I Tim. 2:8-10) "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (I Pet. 3:3,4). "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance" (I Pet. 1:14).

"Our women are to wear modest length dresses that come well below the knees at all times and must have not less than three-quarter length sleeves. Our women are to wear hose in public. The neckline also must be modest. Our women are not to wear slacks, shirts, jeans or any other clothing pertaining to men. They are to abstain from patronizing the beauty parlor. Our women are to refrain from the use of make-up and are not to cut their hair or that of their girls (Jer. 4:30; 1 Cor. 11:1-16).

"Neither men nor women are to wear transparent, form-fitting, or suggestive apparel or any other immodest attire Our men shall wear modest length sleeves in public. Also both-men and women are to leave off wearing of all jewelry, including the wedding ring or band. (A plain watch or time piece with a plain band shall be accepted.) All adornment such as gaudy or decorative pins, tie clasps, beads, etc. shall be forbidden." (Manual of Bible Missionary Church, pages 16, 17)

An inner heart experience of holiness expresses itself in proper conduct. "Let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3). "In honour preferring one another" (Rom. 12:10). "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." (Gal. 5:13-15). "He that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve" (Luke 22:26). "I beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are Called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:1-3).

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MAKE ROOM FOR JESUS

By Foy Bullock

". . . Because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

During the dark days of 1944 we celebrated Christmas in Germany fighting an enemy which threatened the very fundamentals of human civilization. History reveals the horrors of World War II, and the deprivation of families of their loved ones at that Christmas season. But paradoxical as it may seem, I cherish the memory of that eventful year. There was a deep

satisfaction of knowing I was contributing to the destruction of an enemy which threatened to enslave millions.

Today we are faced with a far more dangerous enemy than Hitler. Materialism, with its deadly allurements, has swept across the face of the earth. It has invaded every facet of social life. The thinking of humanity is captivated by this deadly enemy of spiritual life. Labor, business, and government are involved in retirement and welfare programs invented to pacify the world's hungry masses. Christmas, 1965, will break sales records as in previous years. It is one success story after another.

There is an implication in Luke 2:7 of a lack of sympathy of those occupying the inn. They had passed the point of sacrifice. They violated principle of life in order to enjoy personal comfort. The Lord, no doubt, would have rewarded them had they made room in the inn, but they were blinded and weakened by unprincipled motives.

Christ, again this Christmas, seeks a response from us. Will we shroud ourselves in desires for material things and hope not to be disturbed? Or will we watch for an opportunity to entertain Jesus? Think what the occupants of the inn missed. They spurned the One that could share with them the most. He seeks to share with us.

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A SOVEREIGN PREFERENCE

By Adam Clarke

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matt. 22:37.

LOVING GOD WITH ALL THE HEART. He loves God with all his heart who loves NOTHING in comparison of Him, and nothing but in REFERENCE to Him. Who is ready to give up, do, or suffer anything in order to please and glorify Him; has in his heart neither love nor hatred, hope nor fear, inclination nor aversion, desire nor delight, but as they relate to God, and are regulated by Him.

LOVING GOD WITH ALL THE SOUL. He loves God with all his soul, or rather, with all his life, who is ready to give up life for His sake. To endure all sorts of torments, and to be deprived of all kinds of comforts, rather than dishonor God. Who employs life with all its comforts and conveniences, to glorify God in, by, and through all. To whom life and death are nothing, but as they come from and lead to, God. From this divine principle sprang the BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS, which became the seed of the church

LOVING GOD WITH ALL THE STRENGTH. He loves God with all his strength who exerts all the powers of his body and soul in the service of God. Who, for the glory of his Maker, spares neither labor nor cost, who sacrifices his time, body, health, ease, for the honor of God, his Divine Maker. Who employs in His service all his goods, his talents, his powers, credit, authority, and influence.

LOVING GOD WITH ALL HIS MIND. He loves God with all his mind who applies himself only to know God, and His holy will. Who receives with submission, gratitude, and pleasure, the sacred truths God has revealed to man. Who studies no art nor science but as far as it is necessary for the service of God, and uses it at all times to promote His glory Who banishes from his understanding and memory every useless, foolish, and dangerous thought together with every idea which has any tendency to defile his soul, or turn it for a MOMENT from the CENTER of eternal repose.

In a word, he who sees God in all things, thinks of Him at all times, having his mind continually fixed upon God, acknowledging Him in all ways. Who begins, continues, and ends all his thoughts, words and works to the glory of His name. THIS is the person who loves God with all his heart, life, strength, and intellect.

He is crucified to the world, and the world to him. He lives, yet not he, but Christ lives in him. He beholds as in a glass the glory of the Lord, and is changed into the same image from glory to glory. Simply and constantly looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of his faith, he receives continual supplies of enlightening and sanctifying grace, and is thus fitted for every good word and work. O glorious state! far, far, beyond this description! which comprises an ineffable communion between the ever-blessed Trinity and the soul of man!

"The ancient author of a MS. Lexicon in the late French king's library, 'with all the mind,' has the following definition: 'A pleasing surrender of friendship to a friend- an identity of sameness of soul.' A sovereign preference given to ONE above all others present or absent; a CONCENTRATION of all thoughts and desires in a single object, which a man prefers to all others."

Apply this definition to the love which God requires of His creatures, and you will have the most correct view of the subject. Hence it appears that, by THIS love, the soul eagerly cleaves to, affectionately admires, and constantly rests in God, supremely pleased and satisfied with Him as its portion; that it acts from Him, as its Author; for Him as its Master; and TO Him as its end. That by it, all the powers and faculties of the mind are CONCENTRATED in the Lord of the universe.

That by it the whole man is willingly surrendered to the Most High; and that, through it, an IDENTITY, or SAMENESS of spirit with the Lord is acquired

the man being made a partaker of the Divine nature, having the mind in him which was in Christ, and thus dwelling in God and God in him.

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THE DANGER OF REJECTED LIGHT
W. M. Tidwell

If one goes to sleep in the dark you can turn on the light and awaken him but if he goes to sleep in the light what can be done? Jesus warned the cities of His day of this danger. He told the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida and others if the mighty works which were done in them had been done in these wicked cities they long since would have repented in sackcloth and sat in ashes. He said of these cities where he preached that it would be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for these cities who: had the light and rejected it.

Let us take a glance at Sodom: and see what they did not have. They did not have the Holy Ghost just as we do now. Jesus said "When he is come he will reprove the world of sin." He is now here doing His work. Sodom did not have a church, did not have a Christian. Lot was a righteous man but may have been a backslider. Lost his influence even among his own children. "He seemed as one that mocked to his sons-in-law." Said he was crazy. He got his children in Sodom, but couldn't get them out that easy. Not a Bible, not a song book, not a revival.

Now compare this with America. Churches almost on every corner. Preachers, Bibles, radios, and hundreds of opportunities to get saved. We shudder when we hear the words, "God bless America." God has already blessed America. Look at the God given opportunities America has had. Now the point is this, if God burned the City of Sodom to the ground, "He turned the Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes and condemned them with an overthrow, making of them an example." 2 Peter 2:6. Yet better for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of Judgment than for America with all her light rejection.

Dr. Godbey said a very large part of those around holiness churches already sinned against the Holy Ghost -- across the dead line. But what must we do? Quit trying? No, we will work till Jesus comes. We do not find one Scripture in the Bible that holds out any hope for a worldwide revival or even for general revivals in local churches, but Jude tells us to pull them out of the fire. Yes, have revivals till Jesus comes. One here and there and maybe occasionally a number get it, but false hope is dangerous.

God says, "woe unto them that are at ease in Zion." Selfish. Fine homes, fine furnishings, fine cars, clothes and a love for earthly things. "Of the earth, earthy."

David said, "No man cared for my soul." The expulsive power of a supreme affection. Material things, good things maybe have crowded out the burden for souls. Lord save us from hilarious preaching, hypocritical shouting and testimony and then wake up at the Judgment and find it more tolerable for Sodom than for America and maybe for us. The "great falling away of the last days" must be on us. I tried to show this to a holiness preacher the other day and he replied, "I don't see it and I don't want to see it." What a day the Judgment will be! Day of revelation, separation and doom.

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THE CHILDREN'S PAGE
By Mrs. Paul King,
Box 382, Lima, Ohio

THE CHRISTMAS CAROL

Alica stood at the picture window watching the snowflakes as they fell to the good earth. Some were tiny, tiny; others were big and starry looking. Momentarily they ceased falling and her heart sank. Then, just as quickly again it began to snow . . . this time rapidly

She tore herself away from the beautiful snow and the picture window and ran to the kitchen to help mother bake delicious and beautiful Christmas cookies.

Late that same afternoon she walked into the kitchen, fully dressed . . . scarf, boots, mittens and all. "I'm going to see Mrs. Perkins," she said with tears in her eyes.

"But she's such a cross old woman, honey, and hates children," mother said.

"I believe Jesus told me to go; at least I felt that way as I prayed. May I take a few cookies, please?" and Alica's big blue eyes plead with her mother.

"Gladly, gladly, honey," and mother found a two pound Crisco can. "Let's cover it with some pretty Contac and put a bright red ribbon on the lid."

Together they worked. Soon the can was all covered and looked like some masterpiece from the downtown hardware household items shelf. Alica filled it to the top with the prettiest cookies she could find, then started on her mission.

The snow was piling high now and drifting in soft peaks around her feet, but she did not notice, so intent was she on talking to the Lord.

Mrs. Perkin's house loomed up in the distance and her heart sank. Silently she prayed for strength and courage. When she got to the door and two big dogs showed their ugly faces in the window and barked fiercely, she didn't know what to do. Quickly a thought entered her head and she began to sing: "Away in a manger, no crib for His bed;" she sang softly and tearfully. The big door swung open wide.

"Get back! Get back!" a gruff voice said as she motioned the two big dogs to silence and away from the door.

"And what do you want?" Mrs. Perkins asked crossly.

"A blessed Christmas to you, Mrs. Perkins. I came to sing you a carol and give you these cookies," and Alica trembled with fright.

"Come in! Come in!" Mrs. Perkins said, brushing sudden tears aside. "You must be frozen. Just see how you tremble, child."

"I'm not cold, Mrs. Perkins. Not really! In fact, I feel warm." Mrs. Perkins' soft word, "child," had suddenly warmed Alica all over.

"These cookies are for you," the child said, as she settled her small body in the big rocker by the fireplace.

"Isn't Christmas a lovely time of year! God gave us His Son to be our Saviour, Mrs. Perkins"

"Yes, He did, didn't he? I had almost forgotten," and Mrs. Perkins came near Alica and felt of her cheeks and her small head. "You are human, aren't you? Or ... or... are you an angel from Heaven? It's been such a long, long time ago."

"It has?" Alica asked, puzzled. "I'm real, Mrs. Perkins. A real human being. May I sing for you?" and she began singing, "Joy to the world, The Lord is come!"

"Stop! Stop!" Mrs. Perkins said, weeping and trembling. "I want Him to abide in my heart I've been a bitter old woman and have blamed God unjustly," and her voice broke. "It was years and years ago. I lost my little girl; she was sweet like you, and always pleasant and joyful. Her father was lost at sea some years before, and when she died I became bitter and felt God had been unjust with me."

"He took her to lead you, Mrs. Perkins. If she was a little girl she's happy in Jesus' arms and is safe at home in Heaven."

"I see it! I see it now! And oh, I want to be forgiven and find this Christ who has brought joy to the world and sent you here. I thought, when I first saw you, you must be the angel of my Alice. Oh, I've been bitter, and have hated children and everybody ever since! But I want forgiveness and I want peace for my poor wretched soul and heart."

"May I pray for you?" Alica asked, laying her small hand on the broken-hearted woman's arm.

"Will you? Oh, please! Will you?"

By the big old-fashioned rocking chair Alica and Mrs. Perkins knelt and, as the old woman confessed all the sins of her life and the bitterness of her soul, Jesus came into her heart in saving power. Her face shone like some heavenly being and Alica could scarcely believe the transformation before her very eyes. Mrs. Perkins was actually pretty as her face was wreathed in heavenly smiles.

"What is your name?" she asked.

"Alica. Alica Moffett."

you 'Angel.' Truly, you have been an angel sent by God." Then, folding the delicate form close to

her bosom, she whispered, "Thank God! Thank God! Angel, you must come to see me often Oh, Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. For unto me a Saviour was given!"

The snow flakes swirled and danced dizzily about Alica and the earth seemed full of the glory of the Lord as she walked homeward in the early evening dusk. From a distant hillside a group of carolers were singing softly,

"Fall on your knees!
Oh, hear the angel voices;
Oh night. Oh Holy night
Oh night when Christ was born."

Alica dropped reverently to the soft powdery snow and, raising her hands heavenward, she gave praise to the Lord ere continuing homeward.

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NO ROOM

He came to a world that was steeped in sin,
Wand'ring in darkness and gloom;
This lowly Babe brought a priceless gift,
But for Him there was found no room.

No room for the blessed Son of God?
We wonder how that could have been;
Surely, if we had been there then
We would have welcomed Him in.

The Saviour still comes to a sinful world,
Seeking a place to abide;
Seeking for those who will make Him room;
Seeking to lead and guide.

And the busy world rushes blindly on,
Not seeing its coming doom;
Failing to see in its headlong race,
It has denied Him room.

We open the inn of our hearts, O Lord,
Come be our welcome, guest;
Having Thy loving presence here
We are supremely blest.

Blest as we humbly walk with Thee,
Knowing Thee better each day;

Knowing no evil can betide
As long as Thou dost stay!

-- Mrs. Parker Maxey

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THE END