

SPIRITICITY December 1945

Beloved of God, greeting:

To the writers of our Scriptures, the foundation for present day religious ceremony, a candle was the most commonly used vehicle of light. The candle is representative of light, and light in any degree is a symbol of intelligence. All the men of Scripture used the candle to describe the intelligence man manifests when in right relation with his Creating Source.

Hear Job longing for the good old days when he was in good standing with his Lord, saying, O, that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me, when his candle shined upon my head, and when, by his light, I walked through darkness.

Hear Solomon also, in his Proverbs of Wisdom declare the Spirit of man to be the candle of the Lord. And the Psalmist in confident expectancy that the Lord would light his candle.

Solomon also observes that all that is the matter with the wicked is that their candle has gone out.

Zephaniah speaks of searching Jerusalem with candles to find those lukewarm, or milk-toast-types of inhabitants who say in their hearts, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil.

Jesus Christ used the symbol in his Sermon on the Mount: Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light to all that are in the house.

Jesus spoke much of light. He said, Ye are the light. I am the Light. Let your light shine.

Sincerely yours  
A. J. Truesdell

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SPIRITICITY December 1945

TWO MEN

By Nell Truesdell

The birth-date of the child Jesus was a long disputed subject for several centuries after his sojourn in this world. Instead of giving our attention to this controversial subject we shall consider what happens in the individual consciousness when Christ, the activity of God, is quickened.

A transformation takes place throughout the whole man when the spiritual quickening known as the New Birth floods heart and mind with its light. Something happens that causes a complete change. Often the person having the experience cannot say just what occurs, but he knows he is different. His heart is warmed, and its glow spreads until even the outer rim of awareness is touched

and affected. He looks upon his life and the world at large in a new way. Usually, he is charged with a special mission he alone must perform.

From the beginning of Biblical history, we observe definite changes took place in the life of every man and woman whom God, in some special way, touched, awakened, and filled with his mystical Presence. Briefly, we shall consider Moses and Jesus.

Moses is the man with whom Hebrew history began. Through him, we have access to historical matter by which we can trace the development of the Hebrew nation. We move out of the tribal culture and enter the beginnings of true Hebrew culture. Under Moses' religious leadership and insight, ethical monotheism was inaugurated; the belief in one God who is primarily ethical and moral superseded belief in several tribal gods.

"And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the Lord: and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty; but by my name YAHWEH was I not known to them."

This understanding did not burst upon Moses all at once, but grew in his consciousness as he moved forward in spiritual growth. He took the highest inferences of the prevailing religious faith and welded them unto his own peculiar message.

We must remember that Moses' father and mother were of the house of Levi. When Moses was born he was kept three months, contrary to Egyptian edict that all male Hebrew children be slain at birth. When his mother could no longer hide him, he was placed among the bulrushes so that when Pharaoh's daughter bathed in the river she could not help but discover the child.

Being adopted by the Egyptian princess subjected him to the best culture of that day. Not only did he receive all the advantages of an Egyptian nobleman, but he had the good fortune to be nursed and, of course, taught in the Hebrew religious tradition of his own mother. Psychologically, he had the best influences, social, political, and religious, during his formative years, so there is little wonder that he could deal with kings when he had to.

Moses had no element of personal ambition. He always had to be prodded. When a comparatively young man of forty, he discovered he was a Hebrew in a real sense, he threw his lot with the slaves who were writhing under the burdens of Egyptian bondage. Eventually he was forced to flee to Midian where he was further instructed in the Hebrew religious concepts by Jethro the priest, who became his father-in-law; and whose flocks he led to the very mountain of God where he, Moses, experienced his theophany.

With his experience of the burning bush, Moses was given the singular commission of re-interpreting the being and purposes of God who outwardly, so far, had failed Israel at every point. Not that Israel was not religious; but their concept of God was no longer commanding.

"God called to him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

"And he said, Draw not nigh hither; put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God

of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God."

Moses was now beginning to understand that God is ethical, interested in relieving his people from oppression. But when he realized it was he whom God would commission to deliver Israel, he cried out, "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Even after God's promise of cooperation, the question loomed so large in Moses' mind that God was required to name himself to this man quelling under the impact of his assignment.

"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations."

In the third, fourth, and sixth chapters of Exodus the account reveals that Moses repeatedly received the instruction that God was the one God of the three patriarchs. The idea that the one God prevailed in the three concepts was a tremendous step forward in spiritual understanding. Little wonder that Moses was slow to grasp its import when we, in our so-called developed state, seldom reconcile the various concepts of God evident in our world; or, even those of our own consciousness.

It is interesting to note that Moses and Jesus were born at times in history when the rulers ordered male Hebrew offspring slain; and, how God miraculously saved both children for the peculiar tasks only they could undertake and complete. Moses' task was to deliver his people from physical and mental bondage to the Egyptians and set their faces toward the Promised Land of spiritual freedom. Jesus' task was to deliver mankind from economic, mental, and spiritual bondage to the state, family, and church. Both men had the task of presenting to their and future generations a concept of God as One, indivisible and indispensable.

Moses realized that the gods of his forefathers were in reality One God whose Presence, Power, and Purpose was to bless Israel. Jesus realized that the God of the Hebrews was indeed the God of all mankind alike, and that in him all men were brothers.

Moses was eighty years old before he began his active work of redeeming his people from bondage. Jesus was thirty when he started out with his world-shaking doctrine that destroyed and still destroys every vestige of falsity in worship of God and interrelations with man.

In giving the ten commandments, Moses set forth in the first four man's responsibility to God, in the fifth, man's duty to his parents, and in the sixth through the tenth, man's responsibility to his fellows. Jesus reiterated the command to love God with the whole being, first, and added only one to that, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

Jesus led those able to follow him into a new realization about God. No longer was God limited to one race, but he was the Father of all living. This

step forward in spiritual development is the last and final one. Each person must reach it, else remain a failure in spiritual attainment.

In our ongoing we traverse countless paths that lead into the nowhere. We come to understand the conclusions reached are based on nothing and therefore give zero as the answer. Only love of the Jesus Christ doctrine will heal and free man from the illusions of worldly judgments so that he can cast off the chains that bind him to the wheel of life.

Jesus had to break many fixed laws in human relations in order to reveal the one safe practice for all; that is, love of and for God will lead to love toward all mankind and give a conscious knowledge of an essential Good, everywhere present.

Jesus Christ taught that we are to look only toward the Good. "There is none good but one, that is, God." Circumstances, experiences, are not in themselves good or bad. The secret of the Christ doctrine is to notice without fail the Omnipresent Good, to which the happenings bear witness. Their values are determined entirely by the onlooker. All of us need to rise above the contrasts of good and evil, as we interpret them, and enter that country transcendent, but pressing close around us, that gleams with the Good in which there is no comparison or contrast.

We are not to name particular out-picturings "good," or try to make any negative, unwanted situation into something other than it appears to us. We are to look past appearance into the escapeless principle which says, There is only Good.

This is how the New Birth, the Christ birth, affects us. When it occurs, we are changed in that we disregard prevailing appearances and give our attention entirely to a principle which we know is the reality being demonstrated.

This happened to Moses when he received his commission. It was what enabled him to accomplish the seemingly impossible. The fears aroused, his sense of personal limitation, the multiplicity of reactions that shouted No! in him as he cried in the depths of his being, "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh?" were but fertile ground in which the fresh, bright seed of a new day fell to germinate and spring forth to yield manifold returns.

It happened to Jesus when, as a boy at the tender age of twelve, he knew and said he must be about his Father's business. Who in his immediate environment understood his revelation? The only sympathetic reaction was that of his mother who pondered in her confused heart the sayings of her son. He had to wait eighteen years before he could enter actively upon his career. That period of waiting was his fertile proving ground: it was not in vain.

The activity of God quickens every soul awakened enough to recognize its presence. Along with this quickening comes a definite mission or assignment. It may not be a world-shaking event to every person, but it certainly will shake up the consciousness in which it is born. We ought to face bravely the New Birth, the Christ birth in consciousness, and be not fearful but rejoice in results.

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SPIRITICITY December 1945

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

By A. J. Truesdell

The yearly advent of Christmas changes in meaning for each person. The constantly recurring observance of this sacred festival causes an expanded understanding of its import. From an early childhood holiday indicating a time for receiving presents, the Christmas celebration undergoes a progressive transmutation in the person's mind wherein the practices of giving, living, and loving are exercised as higher interpretations of the Life Principle. When the astonishing results in the lives of people who truly celebrate Christmas are witnessed, we wonder why a practice producing such marvelous fruits as peace, good will, generosity, kindness, and thoughtful consideration is confined to a brief time period each year.

What does the season yield in spiritual values alone? Language itself is inadequate to express the upsurging sweep of holy inspirations. It is significant that the very best words we possess are brought out to celebrate the event. Even little children sing, "Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King!" And both they and adults pray, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The man on the street salutes his fellows with the customary greeting of Merry Christmas! and Happy New Year! Such pleasant words must be good medicine for the hardening arteries of the race.

In the field of literature, Christmas characters outlive their creators. Many who have never read the works of Charles Dickens are familiar with Ebenezer Scrooge, the exceedingly hard, avaricious man who was transformed by the Christmas spirit; and, with Tiny Tim whose innocent courage led him to bless all people with enthusiastic abandon.

Few of the great composers of music neglected this event, for it has furnished inspiration for song and symphony. So long as there are singers, Silent Night, Holy Night, will remain the favorite Christmas song, though few persons can name the writer of this immortal contribution in the field of music. The Messiah, rendered by an adequate choral group, overshadows Handel and permits recognition of no name other than the Name of Him to whom the oratorio pays tribute.

Some of the greatest paintings by the most celebrated artists throughout the ages present the Subject of this fabulous Christmas occasion. The pictures of the Madonna and Child by several master painters are more familiar to children of the Christian world than they whose genius created them.

We must surely understand that this extraordinary holiday celebrates an advent rather than an event. At this season a large percentage of the human race is on its good behavior displaying its best disposition.

Religious observances in all churches of the Christian world deal with the most exalted qualities of man's constitution. The Omnipresent God is felt and all seem to sense that they live, move, and have their being in Him. God seems to draw closer to the human race through the Babe known as Jesus.

The same Christmas message is brought to the child, young person, and adult alike, year in and year out. No one ever tires of hearing the familiar story. The same lesson, coming to the attention of the listener, conveys different meanings as he grows; an undertone of spiritual reality which might have escaped the ear of the small child is revealed to the youth, and enhanced to the adult as he hears the story in the light of his new development. The message becomes the cherished possession of the student.

There is no change in words from the first to the thousandth hearing, for the story is told many, many times in one season. But a change is evident in the listener, for the lesson acts as leaven and its repetition increases understanding. More light enters consciousness. No longer does one believe because the lesson is written in a book or recited in a church. Quickened perception of the depth of values in the story incites new realizations.

We may well wonder what manner of Man can inspire such enthusiastic celebrations of His birth after so many centuries. We may conclude that such an one was born to live forever in the mind and heart of the human race which he came to save.

No figment of the imagination, no synthetic creation of man's mind could endure so long and so vitally. No abstraction could cause the genuine joy, beautiful behaviour, or sincere loving kindness on the part of those who enjoy just being themselves at this time of year.

No other could be responsible for the good will spread abroad but One nearer than breathing, and closer than hands or feet, the Light that lighteth every man coming in the world, the Light that is the Life of man.

As we worship the Babe in the cradle, let us also remember the man who, with Christed Spirit, blessed the people of the earth in the simple announcement, "I and my Father are one," and, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom he hath sent."

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Alphabet of  
DAILY MEDITATIONS  
For Every Week Day of the Month

December 1945

1. Be ... APT to teach, patient.  
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3. BLESSED are those ... whom the Lord ... shall find watching.
4. Thou, O Lord, art a God full of COMPASSION.
5. He ... DELIVERED them from their DESTRUCTION.
6. EVEN as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.
7. My son, FORGET not My law.
8. Be GENTLE unto all men.  
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10. Let thine HEART keep My commandments.
11. Open unto him IMMEDIATELY.
12. It is JOY to the JUST to do JUDGMENT.
13. A man of KNOWLEDGE increaseth strength.
14. LORD LIFT thou up the LIGHT of Thy countenance upon us.
15. The MEEK shall increase their joy in the Lord.  
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17. NOW will I arise, saith the Lord.
18. Whatsoever is born OF God OVERCOMETH the world.
19. Ye shall ... be led forth with PEACE.
20. It is the Spirit that QUICKENETH.
21. Let the word of Christ dwell in you RIGHTLY, in all wisdom.
22. He will SAVE.  
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24. Let not mercy and TRUTH forsake THEE.
25. I UNDERSTOOD as a child.
26. Thy VISITATION hath preserved my spirit.
27. The WORK of righteousness shall be peace.
28. Let not YOUR hands be weak.
29. Have a ZEAL of God.  
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31. Give unto the Lord glory and strength.

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A right word, thought or spoken at the right time, is priceless. It accomplishes whatever it announces and leaves an effect of peace and good will that cannot be obtained otherwise. Please practice the DAILY MEDITATIONS with us.

SPIRITICITY December 1945

SCRIPTURE LESSON

SUNDAY, December 2, 1945

Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

I AM RICHLY BLESSED

SUNDAY, December 9, 1945

I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, ... am God.

Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.

If riches increase, set not your heart upon them. Will he esteem thy riches? no, not gold, nor all the forces of strength. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth.

Charge them that are rich in the world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God who giveth us richly in all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good. Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, ... for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

I AM BLESSED ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES

SUNDAY, December 16, 1945

Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the Lord; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.

And the Lord called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the Lord, ... if his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, ... he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord. ... and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

As the sin offering is, so is the trespass offering: there is one law for them: the priest that maketh atonement therewith shall have it.

(But) the law made nothing perfect, ... the bringing in of a better hope did: by the which we draw nigh unto God.

The law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the son, who is consecrated for ever more.



By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. This man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God. For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

WE DRAW NIGH UNTO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

SUNDAY, December 23, 1945

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 Savior, 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 to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

LET US SEE THIS WHICH IS COME TO PASS

SUNDAY, December 30, 1945

If the first fruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

Behold, therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness; otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but the that doeth evil hath not seen God. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he? The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof.

We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.

WE ARE MADE PARTAKERS OF CHRIST