

to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour"—good tidings—great joy—born a Saviour. There was, and is, nothing so much needed by the sons and daughters of men as a Saviour, one who can and does save his people from their sins. Ah, the misery and degradation, corruption and sorrow, shame and infinite pain caused by sin and transgression!

There is not a reader of our paper, not a citizen of our country, not a member of our race but is touched, tainted and defiled by it. How many of us have again and again writhed under its cruel lash! and yet good news. "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Ring out the message then, and let every one that hears know assuredly that the Lord Jesus can and will save *everyone* that turns from his sin, and looks to Him for salvation and power.

ADVENT.

There are, no doubt, great events in the unknown future of this world, but the greatest of all will be when Jesus comes again. There are matters of pressing vital importance to happen in my own life, but none worthy to be compared with that blessed event which is daily drawing nearer—the personal meeting with my blessed Lord, "face to face" in the moment of His glorious appearing. Jesus Himself gave His people the promise, "I will come again." The second coming of Christ, then, must be a real thing. Many people to-day forget or neglect this truth as if it was something which did not concern them. God's word tells us, however, that "every eye shall see Him." No one will be able to step aside in that great day, therefore everyone should have an interest in it now. Many again talk much about the second coming of Christ, and theorize not a little as to prophecies and dates, but the blessed truth itself does not seem to have any real effect upon their daily lives. When the Lord spoke of His return it

was always in a most practical light.

"Let not your heart be troubled... I will come again." He told them that it was to be as if a man was going on a journey who might be back at midnight or perhaps at the cock crowing, or perchance not till the morning—but all the time of His absence they were "to watch." They were to "watch" even as for a "thief in the night." Let this Advent season then—it may be the last—be a time of "watching" for us all. So let us be up bright and early in the morning at Bible study and prayer, instead of lying late in bed, lest He should come and find us there sleeping when we should be up and about the King's business. Let us be kind and loving and, oh, so forgiving to everybody, for how ashamed would we be if the Lord should come and find it otherwise with us. Let everything in our lives be straight and clear as the noon-day sun, for if He comes to-day there will be no chance of putting things to rights. He will find things just as they are. Let our lives be pure and holy every day, lives very near to Christ, realizing what is indeed the truth, that He is not far away but may be—yea He may be even now—at the very door.

Then in our relationship with others about us in the world what a practical truth this should be. The teaching of the Word of God is that when the Bridegroom comes the door will be shut. Yes, when Jesus returns the door of grace will be forever closed. That may be to-night or even before the sun sets to-day. Does my worldly friend or companion, my employee, the man I meet in business, know this? Have I ever spoken one real heart word to him about his soul? If I delay it may be too late. But what is keeping the Lord back? Why does He not come? His own peculiar people have not yet been gathered out from the nations of the earth. Perhaps it is because I am not praying, or studying, or giving, or going, or in the Lord's own appointed way, I am not taking my part in foreign mis-

sionary work that the Lord's coming is delayed. Certain it is because *someone* is not doing what the Lord told him to do. I wonder "Is it I?" When He does come may He find me just where He would have me. When He does come may He find me doing just what He would have me to do. So shall we each have great joy at His appearing.

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GIFT SUNDAY.

I would like to commend to all the clergy in Canada the institution of Gift Sunday.

What is Gift Sunday?

Well, it is one of the most delightful and helpful things, not only a pleasure but a blessing. On the Sunday nearest to Christmas, before or after, the scholars of the Sunday-school, boys and girls, infants and Bible classes, and teachers alike, all come, bringing in their hands a gift, and the gifts are brought up and piled on the platform on the superintendent's table, an eye-gladdening and heart-cheering mass, to be afterwards taken and distributed amongst the home poor and needy; or, what is better, sent to some mission in the remote parts of our diocese to cheer and help them at Christmas time.

Now the basis of this happy institution is twofold. First: The thought that a very large number of our weaker and poorer schools can be brightened and helped by a little Christmas effort on the part of schools better off. Second: The idea that a vast majority of our Church Sunday-school scholars have come to that time when it is of the highest importance for them to learn that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

One of the best things about Gift Sunday is the way it takes.

In my parish, St. Paul's, Halifax, it was from the very first attempt a perfect success.

We had a very large number of poor children, a very large number, and it was thought by the most timid that the poorer ones might feel it very much if