

is often wholly forgotten, and people are seen preparing diligently, and sometimes laboriously, to keep Christmas without a thought of Christ, or of the salvation which He then came to secure for them. Is not this strange? Perhaps it is so common that it has ceased to surprise us as it ought; and, certainly, it does not startle or appal us as it undoubtedly should; for surely there is not a sadder evidence of worldliness, and of its power over the hearts and lives of men, than to see how it can thus shut Christ out from His own Festivals.

It is not that the day and time is forgotten, and suffered to pass unobserved, as is the case with the day of the Crucifixion. No, it is remembered, and anticipated, and prepared for most assiduously.

We would here make an earnest plea for the right use of Advent, and urge that *your* preparation for Christmas shall not be wholly worldly and sensuous. If you are preparing presents for others and good things for your table, do not forget also to prepare a devout heart to present unto the Lord, and yourself to feast at *His* Table. Do not deck your own house for the Festival, while you take no part in adorning the House of the Lord, and leave to a few, and often feeble, if willing hands, the properly grateful task of bringing thither "the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of the Sanctuary, and to make the place of the Lord glorious."

It is indeed strange that any Christians can allow a single Christmas to come, while they are in health, without their doing something, however little, towards the proper and festal adornment of

God's House—that so many should be content to leave this to others, and, through sheer indifference, allow what should be esteemed a sacred work to be so often undertaken by the idle and frivolous, and made an occasion of mere frolic and mirth, or of flirtation and gossip. And, stranger still, that any Christian should, willingly and contentedly be absent, on Christmas Day, from the Lord's House, and voluntarily forego a participation in its services. Oh, if you keep the Feast at all, keep it as *Christians*, and with direct and thankful remembrance of God's great Gift to man. Endeavor for once to realize the astounding fact which Christmas commemorates.—that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—and to realize this to some purpose, and so as to lead you truly to present unto God, yourselves, your souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice unto Him. And thus will you be preparing, not only for the approaching Festival, but also for that second Advent of Christ, which the Church teaches us now to anticipate, and for the Judgement which we are then to undergo.—
[*Old Church Path.*]

REMEMBER your clergyman, and your clergyman's wife at this Christmas season. Few but those who know from experience can appreciate the trials which the latter has to undergo. Small salaries, irregularly paid, and cranky people set many a weary head to aching. Gladden their hearts by a gift from your abundance.