

Dawn of Tomorrow

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE CHRISTUS NATUS EST

Christmas is here again but its original Christmas significance seems to be lost among the debris of the past due to the regularity of its annual recurrence. Christmas is the chief addition to the festivals of the church which dates back to the fourth century. Apparently no feast of Christ's nativity was held in the church till that time when it appears first in Rome about 353 or 354. From Rome it spread to the East reaching Constantinople about 378 or 381 and Alexandria between 400 or 432.

Christians throughout the world should observe this festival in a Christian manner. It should mean to them the highest and truest manifestation of God's love and mercy towards a fallen humanity fulfilled; the ushering in of Peace and Goodwill toward men. It is because men have failed to comprehend Christ's mission that the world is today disturbed, that exploitation of life continues unabated, that racial differences exist. Jesus Himself is recorded as saying, "I am the Way, the truth and the Life." That is the standard of life for the Christian and any individual or collective life which falls short of that divine form must be considered not in harmony with Christian living. I am the Way follow it; I am the truth, believe it; I am the life, live it. If men would only follow, believe and live that Christ life exemplified in the life of their Lord and Master who spoke these significant words, wars and rumors of wars would forever cease, and the brotherhood of man would no longer be a meaningless and useless expression. Christ when he came substituted a more humane code for the old Mosaic Law. No longer was it "an eye for an eye", but love and goodwill took its place. If Christ is born, let the Church declare it vociferously and fearlessly with a view this Christmas of seeing Him reigning triumphant in Men's hearts and in this troubled world. Then we shall have "Peace on Earth and Goodwill among men." The Church has not been aggressive enough. By its apathy and indifference men are challenging all religious institutions as favoring things as they are, and making no effort to bring about the social and economic conditions that ought to be. If the Church instead of holding useless Revivals were to inaugurate a proper system of religious education that means something to a child in his plastic years we

might some day have people who will carry religious training and practices into their everyday life and into politics and the result might eventually be a Christian social order and hence a Christian world.

No church, or nation for that matter, can continue bluffing the people all the time. If they fail to manifest love and entirely reject the brotherhood of man then Christianity can mean nothing to anybody. Prejudice without malice and envy within the "fold" and even among so called Ambassadors of Christ can only bring disaster upon and disrespect for the church and its teachings. Most certainly an uneducated and un-Christlike ministry, which throws barriers in the way of Postulants, who would command respect and exalt the ministry if admitted to Candidacy, should realize that they are ruining the cause of Christ and lessening their personal respect as ministers. On this point, too many lies have been told in order to prevent some one from being admitted or some candidate from gaining admission to the Sacred Ministry. The writer knows of a certain church which actually has admitted men of low education status, who, with the help of certain conniving Bishops have attained high orders in the church while at the same time a brilliant colored young man from Nassau was rejected. A combination of causes led to this decision. First among the causes was the fact that that young man was trained in U.S.A. and a graduate of Bishop Payne Theological Seminary in Peterburgh, Va. and again his color was another determining factor in the decision of the Bishop. This happened recently in a certain West Indian island. Certain other churches in Canada and U.S.A. have a way of placing untrained and trained men on equal footing, a practice which should be discontinued. If a man is to serve in this age he should be prepared for leadership. An uneducated porter or mason cannot do much good in an age when every child is required to attend school, and when only the best trained teachers are employed to teach. Preachers should be trained men without any exception, men who have suggestions to make at conferences for growth and improvement of church and people. The Church could not use Galilean fishermen today unless they gave up their fishing, acquired education and culture and passed through the doors of university and seminary. Inspiration alone cannot serve this present age. It must be an admixture of inspiration plus perspiration. Unless a man is prepared to go through intensive and extensive courses of studies he should refrain from getting in at the back door or through the instrumentality of some conniving superintendent or bishop. The example of the Church of Rome should be closely followed. There is only one standard and this is required by everyone admitted to the Sacred Order of the Ministry of Rome.

Ministers are to be leaders, lifters-up of the people. This is impossible if leaders are to be found in the quagmires of ignorance and crudity and

like scarecrows dressed up in clerical garbs frighten men into the Kingdom. Christ must first be born within us before others can see our light and glorify their Father in Heaven. If the minister lives the Holy life and tries to be good then the contagion of goodness will spread among the social order like leaven at work. Yes, Christ is born, in spite of the fact that there was no room for Him in the inn. Let us provide a place for His birth this Christmas and not crowd Him out. If we let Him in, He will enter and take full possession of us and through us control the works of the wicked, making right at length to triumph over might. Let us spend this Xmas in thankfulness to Almighty God that war has been averted and let us pray that the church will take on the armour of Christ and fight for social righteousness and freedom until Satan and his hosts are finally vanquished and God's Kingdom on earth established.

The Church is the only institution able to bring about a changed world order in which we will be able to say, Christus natus est, Christ is born.

—By RANDOLPH A. JAMES

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