



Rev. D. T. Thomas



Rev. R. E. Dunlap

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By Rev. R. E. Dunlap, of the Methodist Church

day. Christmas has its origin in the birth of Christ, and a tenderness and dignity belong to it and are inseparable from it. Even the merriest gladness of the day is tempered by it. The world is not all it ought to be but since Christ was born it has never been quite what it was before. Something of his life pervades it. Something of his life dispels its gloom. Something of his presence mitigates the sadness and the evil of its life.

There are many things in life whose meaning we do not know and whose value we do not appreciate until they are taken from us. If we could imagine what this world would be were Christmas taken away, if we could imagine the fact of Christ's birth annulled, and all the changes in life that His life has brought about obliterated, then, perhaps, we could gain an adequate knowledge of the meaning of Christmas.

No man who knows and professes to believe in the fact that Jesus, a Saviour, was born has a right to look glum or over anxious for, for just this purpose Christ came. May the true meaning and happiness of the season be ours, and the Christ spirit enrich our lives, and prompt us to still greater efforts for the blessing of others.

On that morning of creation when God looked upon the result of his work and pronounced all things good, "The morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy." There was not a discordant strain in all the universe. The conversation of man, with the voice of the beast, and the song of bird, mingled in one harmony that was so sweet to the ear of God that he delighted to come in the cool of the evening and walk in the garden, and hold sweet converse with the man and the woman. That was the very Paradise of God.

Then one day the desire and ambition of man in reaching after the knowledge of God's mysteries, touched the discordant note of sin. The twang of that note set every earthly sound, so that where peace and harmony once prevailed, there was now turmoil and conflict. Oh! the misery and suffering of those dark centuries. There was but one ray of light in all the dark night, and that was the Star of Hope God set in his firmament, then promised sometime to send One of such sweet, harmonious power that He should subdue the discords of earth, and blend all in one eternal harmony. This was the theme of the prophets of all the ages.

At last the long years of suffering and waiting were accomplished. Then one night there was cradled in the Bethlehem manger, the virgin's babe. Can this mysterious one be the promised Messiah? There is nothing to distinguish him from any other child. But hark! There is a new voice on Judea's plain. An angel has broken through the heavens that have been sealed for four centuries. The listening shepherds hear the heavenly assurance for which the world waited.

"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 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."

That song of the angels shall never cease. The reverberations of that strain has reached the earth around, and touched every condition of life. Earth's discords are giving way to heaven's harmonies. The babe of Bethlehem is the Saviour of all mankind. Then shall not we, at this glad Christmas time, give such "Glory to God," and manifest "Good will toward men," that we may hasten such heavenly "Peace on earth" as will make this world a Paradise again.

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GIVES LAW VIOLATORS A CHANCE TO BE GOOD

Hugo Nord was sentenced to state's prison for an indeterminate period of one to five years, but paroled on condition that he conduct himself as a law abiding citizen hereafter, refrain from intoxicating liquors, and make good the money he obtained by passing several forged checks some months ago.

Bruce Coatney, a young man who stole a suit of clothes, was given one to seven years, but was also paroled by the court, on the condition that he report each month to the sheriff. Ole Westfall pleaded guilty to having sold liquor without a license, was fined \$250, but was allowed to go on a condition that he pay the costs of the case and report to the sheriff each month for three months.

YOUNGRANCHER ARRESTED

Man Believed to Know Something of North Plains Robbery.

H. Lunow, a young rancher, was placed in jail by Sheriff Reeves Saturday night, on suspicion of knowing something about the North Plains postoffice robbery, which took place one night last week.

Young Lunow was in North Plains Saturday, and told Mr. Troutman, in whose store the office was pilfered, that he could find the guilty parties if there was money enough in it. The sheriff was notified, and upon going to the ranch where Lunow was stopping, met a denial from Lunow that he had made any such remark.

Sheriff Reeves asked him to go to the store, a mile distant. Lunow accented, but later asked that the officer wait until he could

tell the ranch people where he was going. Permitting this Lunow went into the house and did not return. Reeves later forced one of the doors and found Lunow, who was hiding.



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