

A Christmas Sermon

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TEXT—When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.—Galatians 4: 4, 5.



Christianity was not precipitated upon the world, but came in as the result of a long and patient preparation. The seed which blossomed in Bethlehem, was planted in the garden of Eden. In other words, it was not until "the fulness of time" that "God sent forth His Son . . . to redeem them that were under the law."

Why this delay? Why did not the birth of the second Adam follow immediately upon the fall of the first? Why was a diseased race allowed to suffer in the absence of the only physician who could give relief?

Some of the most interesting and thoughtful answers to this question are in a great sermon on this text by the eloquent Robert Hall, an English Baptist clergyman of an earlier generation, from whom I quote in part.

In the first place, it may have been God's purpose to impress the race with the great lessons of its apostasy and the fearful consequences of rebellion. Thus to restrain our haughty spirits from acting in the future life as we have acted here.

In the second place, if it was necessary in any sense that salvation should be prepared for man, it may have been equally so that man should have been prepared for salvation. Man needed to have a true knowledge of his sinfulness and the misery it produces, as well as his moral inability to overcome it in his own wisdom and strength. It needed time for man to find this out, for he must exhaust everything that nature could do before he would be prepared to receive the grace of God in the present work of his son.

Another reason for the delay is found in the necessity for the accumulation of prophetic evidence concerning the Savior, that when he came he might be identified beyond a doubt. When Jesus came it was at the moment when all the prophecies concerning his advent had reached a focus. The most favorable time in history.

Finally, in this connection it may be added that of all the periods in the world's history that which was selected for the advent of the son of God was the most favorable in at least three particulars:

(1) It was a time of great intellectual refinement, when the human mind had been cultivated to the last degree, and was therefore able to detect and prevent imposture as at no previous time. Tom Paine or Robert Ingersoll did not live then, but such rash lights as they could not have been seen among the luminaries of the Augustan age. In other words, if Christianity stood the test of the first century, it has nothing to fear from the present one.

(2) It was the time of a centralized human government, and Rome was in the heyday of its power. This made the whole of the civilized world easily accessible, furnishing an opportunity for the propagation of the gospel message to mankind everywhere.

(3) It was the age of the perfection of the Greek language, which for many years had been under process of cultivation. This was a tongue pre-eminently adapted to illustrate spiritual truth, and to assist later ages in discovering the meaning of its words. Whatever was written in Greek was accessible to all, and at any earlier period the want of such a vehicle of thought would have made the general teaching of the bible almost prohibited.

The Lessons for Us.
And, finally, whatever may be said as to the delay of the father in sending the son into the world, the two points to be considered now are these:

In the first place, the delay caused no injustice to the preceding ages for the mediation of the son of God looked backward as well as forward and his sacrifice on Calvary atones for the faithful who had died before that event as well as for those who follow after.

And in the second place, "Now" thus "once in the end of the world" hath appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself, it behooves us to inquire whether he has yet been received into our hearts. This should be our chief concern on this anniversary occasion. This is the "fulness of the time" for us, and God forbid that the opportunity should come and go and leave us where we were before. The way to make the Christmas in the earth a Christmas in the soul is to receive Jesus Christ by faith as a personal Savior. He is God's unspoken gift to us. Will you now say to him, I accept this gift, I take thy son? It is so simple, and yet so vital. Do it now.

IRRIGATION BY A WINDMILL

Occasionally Reservoirs Cover Half Acre, but Usually Smaller—Excellent for Garden.

This is a good time of year to think about putting in windmills in places where there are none. For 50 years now they have been the guide boards of our western progress and a few of the old pioneers are still standing, although weak in the joints and ready to fall down. Wherever windmills are much used, it is customary to build reservoirs close by. Occasionally they cover half an acre, but usually they are smaller, says the Denver Field and Farm. For house service and cattle watering they serve as storage to provide for periods of calm weather. For irrigation uses they are too small to be of importance as storage, but serve as accumulators of water, perhaps for several days, and when filled the water can be drawn out and applied to the fields in a few hours. Thus they save the irrigator's time and secure a good head of water which can be put over the ground as desired. It is not desirable to build large reservoirs, as the loss by evaporation and seepage is then of greater moment than the gain in other directions.

Fortunately the time of greatest wind movement are the spring and early summer months, which include the best growing season. In order to take advantage of the high winds of early spring, the garden irrigator should adopt from the dry-farmer the method of water storage in the soil. During the season before seed is planted, heavy irrigations can be given, preferably in deep furrows, and after each division of the garden is thus treated the furrows should be covered by cultivation to prevent the escape of the moisture. If the soil is loamy and deep and retentive, 15 to 20 inches depth of water can be advantageously stored in this way. If the soil is shallow and underlain by porous gravels such irrigations are a waste of time and of water.

There are two conditions in which windmills are especially adapted for irrigation pumping: First, for the house and garden lot, where no other pumping plant is available and where the depth to groundwater is not excessive. Very often the windmill is required for house service, and since that service does not work the mill to more than a fraction of its capacity, it can be utilized the remainder of the time watering a garden or an alfalfa patch with no additional investment. The second condition in which the windmill is adapted for irrigation service is to provide a supplementary water supply to help out dry-farmed crops.

ERADICATE RUSSIAN THISTLE

Commonly Looked Upon by Farmers in Irrigation District as an Evil to Be Quietly Endured.

(By O. M. OSBORNE, Agricultural Editor, Idaho Experiment Station.)

The Russian thistle has become so widely distributed in the irrigated regions that it is commonly looked upon by the farmers as an evil which must be endured. It is exceedingly unfortunate that such a view of the Russian thistle has been taken, for it is not a difficult weed to eradicate, provided community effort can be secured. Without community effort, however, its eradication is quite hopeless. The reason for this is that the weed propagates itself solely by the seed which is scattered by the thousands over vast areas by means of the wind which sends the ripened plant tumbling over the prairie for many miles. Clean land can thus become infested from very distant sources.

The Russian thistle is an annual, and the average plant produces about 25,000 seeds. Fortunately the seeds seldom retain their vitality longer than two years. Any cultivated crops, then, that can be introduced into the rotation for a period of two or more years will entirely eradicate this weed from an infested field, providing other weeds of the same kind are not allowed to tumble over the field during this period. Hence the importance of community effort is evident. It is often advisable to fence off fields that are to be cleaned up with woven wire. Then in case the Russian thistles pile up against the fence in the fall they can be burned and thus prevented from getting into the field.

Tame grasses are often used for two or three years in place of cultivated crops while destroying the seeds already in the soil. When the weeds are but few in number, they may be destroyed by spudding off just below the crown at any time before the seeds mature.

Young and Old Sows.

The Wisconsin station has made interesting tests to prove relative sizes and weights in litters from young and old sows, with astonishing results, says Coburn's Swine in America. In these tests sows weighing an average of 482 pounds at farrowing time produced an average of 9.2 pigs per litter, with a weight per litter of 27 pounds. From sows weighing 307 pounds the average number in the litter was 16 pounds. Where the average weight per sow was 238 pounds the average number in a litter was 5.5 pigs and the average weight of a litter 14 pounds. Sows between the ages of four and five years averaged nine pigs to a litter and a weight per litter of 26 pounds, sows between two and three years old had an average litter of 7.5 pigs, and a litter averaged 19.7 pounds in weight, and sows a year old produced litters of 7.8 pigs, with an average weight of 14.2 pounds per litter.

ROUND-HEADED APPLE TREE BORER WELL KNOWN OVER GREAT PORTION OF COUNTRY

Injurious Beetle Is Easily Recognized by Two Longitudinal Stripes of White Between Those of Brown on Back—Larva Descends to Lower Part of Burrow on Approach of Winter.

The round-headed apple tree borer is an insect known over the greater portion of the country. It bores into the apple, pear, quince and similar trees. The adult beetle is easily recognized by two longitudinal stripes of white between those of brown on the back.

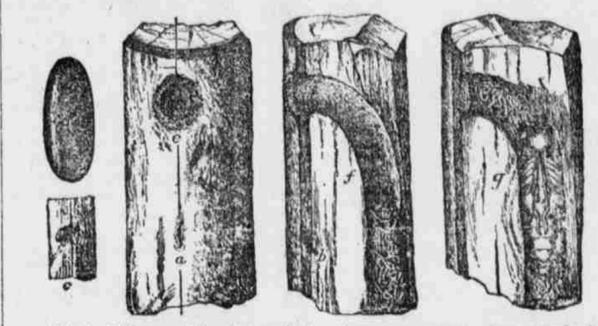
The beetle flies only by night, and is not likely to be seen by the orchardist. It appears early in the summer, and the female deposits her eggs in the bark of the tree, quite close to the ground.

The female makes an incision with her jaws in the bark, causing it to split open one-third to one-half inch in length, and thrusts the egg between the inner and outer bark, accompanying it with a gummy fluid, which covers and secures it in place. These hatch in a short time, and the small footless grub commences to eat its way into the bark. They usually remain in the tree as a grub for three years, during which time great damage is done to the trees infested.

The young lie for the first year in the sap wood and inner bark, excavating flat, shallow cavities which are filled with their sawdust-like castings. Their presence may be detected in young trees by the bark becoming dark colored, and sometimes dry and dead enough to crack, through which some of the sawdust-like matter often

protrudes and falls to the ground. On the approach of winter the larva descends to the lower part of its burrow, and doubtless remains inactive until spring. During the second season it attains about one-half its growth, still living on the sapwood, where it does great damage, and when, as often happens, there are several of these borers in a single tree, they will sometimes cause its death by completely girdling it. During the next season it cuts into the solid wood and secures itself in a safe retreat, goes into the chrysalis stage, and appears the next spring as an adult beetle.

The best remedy for this insect must be preventive. Apply washes to the trunk of the trees that are so repulsive to the borer that it will not lay its eggs on a tree protected by such washes. Soft soap, reduced to the consistency of a thin paint by the addition of washing soda, is recommended by eminent authorities. Carbolic acid solution is also recommended. This should be used with moderation, as it is liable to injure the foliage if applied too strongly. In case preventive measures fail, the insects should be dug out with a pocket knife, and where they have burrowed deep, they may be reached and killed with a stout wire thrust into their holes.



Work of the round-headed apple tree borer. a, wound where egg is deposited; b, same with wood split lengthwise along the line (a, e), and turned so as to show an egg in place; c, same, with the bark split on the same line and removed to the left, so as to show the manner in which the egg is commonly thrust to one side under the bark; d, the egg, enlarged; e, hole of exit of beetle; f, the same, as it appears from the side when split along the line (a, e); g, the burrow, as it appears while the insect is in the pupa state, and before the bark is perforated.

MAKE CHARCOAL FOR THE HOGS

While Feeding on Corn Animals Never Appear to Get Too Much of Burned Cobs.

When hogs are being fed corn they have insatiable appetites for charcoal, and this goes to show the coal meets the requirements of the animal system. What is palatable seldom does the system any injury, and then only when taken in excess, which it is likely to be if the animals are not accustomed to it, especially if they are hungry. The fact that hogs when on full feed of corn eat all forms of charcoal with avidity and never get too much of it is sufficient grounds for providing it in abundance and keeping it within reach of the hogs at all times.

I utilize all the corncobs on my place for making charcoal to feed my hogs, says a writer in the Iowa Homestead. I dig a pit about five feet deep, which is smaller at the bottom than at the top, in which to burn the cobs. I start a fire at the bottom and gradually fill with cobs, then cover the pit with a sheet iron lid. Earth may be used in covering the pit if a large lid is not available. In about 12 hours the combustion has produced an exceedingly good grade of corncob charcoal.

In feeding the charcoal, I make up the following mixture: Five bushels of corncob charcoal, one bushel of wood ashes, eight pounds of salt, two quarts of air-slacked lime, two pounds of sulphur and a pound of copperas. I break up the charcoal, mix all thoroughly together, put the mixture in self-feeding boxes and place where the hogs can have free access to it. This combination furnishes a good percentage of ash for bone building, destroys worms and helps wonderfully in keeping the hogs in a thrifty condition. The amount of charcoal that a bunch of hogs will eat during the winter if given free access to it at all times is really very surprising.

Value of a Cultivator.

Professor Massey says: "The man who walks across the fields four times, or even two times to cultivate each row of corn or cotton wastes enough labor in one season, if he has a crop of any size, to pay for a two-horse cultivator." If you doubt this statement just take a day off and figure it out with your pencil and paper.

Sharp Hoes.

Keep the hoes sharp. A file should be kept in the field when working and used as often as necessary to maintain sharp edges. A sharp hoe works more easily and accomplishes more in a day, with less weariness to the workman.

BATS KILL MANY NOXIOUS INSECTS

None of Species That Inhabit United States Do Any Harm—Guano of Value.

(By H. W. HENSHAW, United States Department of Agriculture.)

There is no doubt of the great value of bats in the destruction of mosquitoes and other noxious insects, especially beetles. For years we have been interested in the subject and have examined many bat stomachs, with a view to finding out the precise species upon which the different bats feed.

The investigation, however, is beset with difficulties owing to the fact that bats habitually seem to thoroughly chew their insect food before swallowing it, with the result that the determination even of general insects taken for food is very difficult, while the identification of soft-bodied insects like mosquitoes is practically impossible. Because they destroy so many insects we advocate the protection of bats wherever they occur.

None of the species that inhabit the United States do any harm, although they sometimes cause annoyance by congregating in large numbers in the attics or under the eaves of country houses, when the noise they make coming and going frequently disturbs the inmates of the house. This trouble, however, can always be easily cured by stopping up the holes and compelling the bats to take up their residence elsewhere.

In connection with the economic importance of bats the value of their guano as a fertilizer is not to be overlooked, as it brings a high price wherever it can be obtained in marketable quantities. In fact, the erection of artificial shelters for bats for the purpose of obtaining the guano has frequently been advocated, as also has an attempt to increase the number of the mammals, having in mind their destruction of noxious insects, especially mosquitoes.

We know of at least one instance in Mexico, where a small dwelling was given up to the exclusive use of bats for the purpose of annually or semi-annually gathering the guano for sale.

Duroc-Jersey Swine.

The Duroc-Jersey is a more refined hog of the lard type. It thrives splendidly on corn, clover, blue grass or alfalfa pasture. The animal is adapted to a great range of climate and does well in dry or warm regions that are unsuitable to other types. Swine to follow steers form a valuable adjunct of every feed lot. These Jersey swine won prizes at many state fairs in the west.

SALONIKI IN PAUL'S DAY

Turkish City That Has Had More Than 2,500 Years of Continuous History.

Saloniki.—The city we now call Saloniki has had a continuous history for more than 2,500 years, says a writer in the Christian Herald. Even before it was refounded and renamed by Alexander the Great, in the year 315 B. C., a city had existed on this beautiful gulf, facing mighty Mount Olympus. But its known history dates from this year, when Alexander rebuilt it and called it Thessalonica, after his sister, the wife of Cassander. It is said that Philip of Macedonia named his daughter Thessalonica because on the day he heard of her birth he won a victory over the Thessalians. Thus the victory of Philip and the name of his daughter, the half-sister of the conqueror of the world, are all embalmed in the name of the city.



Ruins of Palace in Saloniki.

A great city with its harbor full of shipping, its white houses rising in tiers one above another from the edge of the water to the summit of the acropolis behind the city, and around all a white wall five miles in extent. Through the heart of the city stretched forth the great artery of trade, the Egnation way. At the eastern end it passed under a magnificent marble arch, which was built in honor of the victory of Octavian and Antony over Brutus and Cassius in the battle that took place on the plains of Philippi.

Fortunately for Thessalonica she had sided with the monarchists against the republicans in this battle, and when it was over both Antony and Caesar visited the city and commemorated their triumph by erecting the Arch of Victory, which remains to this day. Under this archway doubtless Paul and Silas passed many times during their somewhat lengthy stay in the city.

It has been my privilege more than once to visit Saloniki, to enter it from the sea as one journeys from Athens, and to leave by the route by which Paul entered it on his first visit. It is interesting to note the characteristics of the city, which are the same now as in Paul's time, as well as the changes which the centuries have wrought.

YOUNG HEAVIER AND TALLER

Washington Health Officer Lays the Fact to Open-Air Schools—Death Rate Is Lower.

Washington.—Heavier and taller children were the net results of the open-air schools of the District of Columbia, according to Health Officer William C. Woodward, who presented his annual report. Dr. Woodward dwelt at length on the advantages of pure air instruction over that given in the classroom and then, without any apparent attempt to criticize, declared that the United States government in its maintenance of its personally owned "fish and oyster wharf" here was maintaining "the most insanitary establishment in the District of Columbia for the preparation of food for sale."

The death rate, despite this, was falling so rapidly, according to Dr. Woodward, that the District soon would become one of the most healthful places in the country.

LARGEST WOMAN IS DEAD

Justin Masson of Canada Weighed 780 Pounds and Was Noted for Unusual Strength.

Montreal, Que.—Justin Masson, who weighed 780 pounds, and is said to have been the largest woman in the world, died here recently. Several months ago she became insane and was taken in charge by the assistance publique. In the institution she became notorious for exploits of strength when in a frenzy. Even the walls of her room failed to restrain her, and it was necessary to build a round house outside the main building especially for her.

A specially built coffin was necessary to inter the remains.

Dives After Falling Man. Dennis, O.—When Andy Ronald, forty, heard the body of Harlin Thomas, 32, a miner, whisk down the shaft he dived after the form and landed 90 feet below in 10 feet of water and muck. Ronald pulled the other man to safety and both were hoisted. Both were injured.

Dives After Falling Man.

Indiana School of Traction Engineering, 100 Pine Lake Ave., Laporte, Ind.

DIFFERENCE.



The Senator—I've given the best years of my life to the service of my country.
The Governor—Given! You mean sold!

ITCHING AND BURNING

Berlin, Mo.—"I was troubled with scalp eczema for about five years and tried everything I heard of, but all of no avail. The doctors told me I would have to have my head shaved. Being a woman, I hated the idea of that. I was told by a friend that the Cuticura Remedies would do me good. This spring I purchased two boxes of Cuticura Ointment and one cake of Cuticura Soap. After using one box of Cuticura Ointment I considered the cure permanent, but continued to use it to make sure and used about one-half the other box. Now I am entirely well. I also used the Cuticura Soap.

"The disease began on the back of my head, taking the form of a ringworm, only more severe, rising to a thick, rough scale that would come off when soaked with oil or warm water, bringing a few hairs each time, but in a few days would form again, larger each time, and spreading until the entire back of the head was covered with the scale. This was accompanied by a terrible itching and burning sensation. Now my head is completely well and my hair growing nicely." (Signed) Mrs. Geo. F. Clark, Mar. 25, 1912.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment sold throughout the world. Sample of each free with 32-p. Skin Book. Address post-card "Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston." Adv.

Not Always. "It is money makes the mare go." If she turns out a loser, it is the mare that makes the money go."

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