

The Great Christmas Gift

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TEXT—For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on him, should not perish, but have eternal life.—John 3:16



Martin Luther used to call this verse "The Little Gospel," because it gathered up within itself so concisely and yet comprehensively, the good news of Christ's salvation. What verse is better known, or more often quoted than this, and what text has been used to preach more sermons? Missionaries tell us that it is the first part of the Bible they translate into heathen tongues or teach to heathen people, and we may believe that it has won more souls to Jesus Christ than any other collocation of inspired words that can be named. Its theme is human salvation, and it tells us of God's great Christmas gift to the world.

1. As a revelation of salvation, it speaks first of the source of it—"God so loved the world." There would have been no salvation without that love. What God saw in us to love, while we were yet sinners and rebels in his sight, passes human understanding; but doubtless, it was that we might become in Christ through his grace, and not what we actually were that moved that love. At all events, we must not give currency to the thought of some that it was the sacrifice of Christ that made God love us. This is to caricature his grace, because the very opposite is true, as we see in the next place.

2. The text shows the ground of our salvation, which is the work of Christ—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son." Gave him, that is, as a sacrifice and a substitute for us. In vain did God love us except as his wisdom and grace should provide some way for the putting away of our guilt consistent with his own character of holiness, justice and truth. This way he found in the offering of his son, who "was wounded for our transgressions," and "bruised for our iniquities," and with whose "stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). God thus can be just at the same time that he is "the justifier of him who believeth on Jesus" (Romans 3:26).

3. We have, further, the means of our salvation—"that whosoever believeth on him should not perish." To believe is to exercise faith, but faith is more than mere knowledge or assent, it is absolute trust or reliance. You are on an ocean steamer, let us say, and as you go to bed you read a notice that a life-preserver is under your berth, or over your head. That is knowledge, but not faith. You are informed that if belted around your body it will keep you afloat in water, which you admit. But that is assent and not faith. In the middle of the night when the collision occurs, and the vessel is sinking, and you belt the life-preserver around you, and plunge into the sea, that is faith. You then trust yourself to the life-preserver, putting your reliance upon it absolutely and only. Have you yet done this with reference to Jesus Christ and your salvation?

4. We see the need of salvation—"that whosoever believeth on him should not perish." To "perish" does not mean to become "annihilated" simply, or go out of existence. If that were all, then we had as much punishment for sin before we were born, or before we ever sinned at all, because we were not then in existence. Indeed, but in separation from God and all that that implies of conscious loss, and disappointment, and misery, and suffering. Christ gives us a picture of the perishing in the story of the rich man and Lazarus, Luke 16:19-31, which you are urged to read again in order that you may be moved to lay hold of him ere it is too late.

5. We see the blessing of salvation in the words, "but have eternal life." This agrees with the teaching in another place. "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Here "life" means not merely a continuation of existence, but that existence carried on in the favor of God, in the joy of his presence, in the freedom of his service, and as a sharer in an inheritance which includes all things. The good things of this life are only a shadow of the reality beyond.

Preachers for Prisoners.

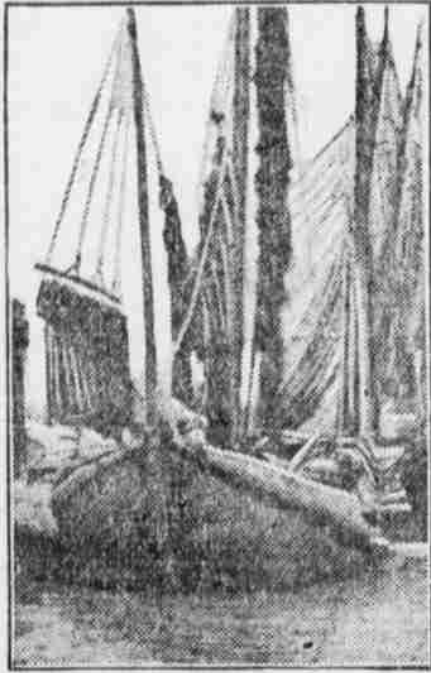
The day ought not to be long distant when the churches of all denominations will regard the prisoners as a mission field worthy their own attention and support; when they will refuse longer to place the state in the necessity of paying for the services of chaplains for these institutions.—Boston Transcript.

FRUIT TRADING IN HOLLAND

Many Co-Operative Societies for Disposal of Vegetables in the Netherlands.

New York.—There are about one hundred co-operative societies for the disposal of fruit and vegetables in the Netherlands, but only actual market gardeners and fruit growers can become members, and the method of disposing of the product proves interesting to the traveler. The growers elect their own council, and on a piece of land favorably situated, bought by the council, erect the auction building, in which the produce grown by all the members is sold by the council.

This selling is done by what is called "Dutch auction," and by an automatic



Typical Fruit Boat.

apparatus, consisting of a large dial with a pointer. Around the rim of the dial are figures indicating the prices. On raised seats, opposite this apparatus, the merchants are seated. Every seat is numbered and communicates electrically with the dial by means of a button. Between these seats and the apparatus is a small canal, wide enough for a barge to be poled through. Every morning the growers gather the produce ready for market in their gardens, grade it, weigh it, and write the quantity down in a book. The produce is then loaded into a barge, which one of the workmen poles to the auction place, where he hands the book to the office.

From the moment the auction starts the barges are poled through the small canal between the merchants' seats and the auction apparatus. The auctioneer announces the quantity and releases the pointer, starting at a figure on the rim of the dial which indicates a price which is too high. The pointer then swings around, indicating lower and lower prices. When the price which some merchant is prepared to give is reached he presses his button. The pointer stops, indicating the price at which the produce is sold, and at the same time a number appears indicating the seat of the merchant who bought it. As the merchants always have the same seats, these numbers indicate the merchants themselves. The amount for which the produce is sold is entered in the book, and when the barge is poled out this book is slung on the barge.

When the workman returns home with the empty barge the grower can see by this book the price which his produce fetched. Before the merchants can receive the produce they bought they must pay at the office. Once a week the grower can obtain his money at the office, less a certain percentage, which is retained by the council to pay the costs.

6,805 BORN AT SEA IN YEAR

London Report on the Census Reveals Many Other Facts of Interest.

London.—Volume IX. of the report on the census of 1911 contains some remarkable figures showing how English people migrate from where they were born.

The five metropolitan counties, Essex, Herts, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey, together with the county boroughs of West Ham and Croydon, contain more than a million natives of London. Essex claims 269,943 of them and Middlesex 357,632.

Of London's 4,521,685 inhabitants 1,436,686 were born outside the county, and it is another remarkable fact that the proportion of native Londoners has risen at each successive census since 1881. At the same time the rate of growth of the population of London has steadily declined. Foreigners of all nationalities in London number 153,128, more than half the total in England and Wales, and a larger number than at any previous census.

Persons born at sea, the report states, showed a remarkable and inexplicable rise from 3,946 to 6,805. Of the total population of England and Wales 36,070,492, nearly 96% per cent, were born in this country and a further 2% per cent, in other parts of Greater Britain.

Lost Timepiece Restored.

East Orange, N. J.—"Please return this watch to your daughter, my soul has found its own—Conscience," says a note accompanying a timepiece lost three years ago by Mrs. Albert G. Ackerman.

Twenty Conductors Arrested.

Chicago.—Existence of a system of graft among conductors on the Chicago & Joliet electric lines has resulted in the arrest and confession of 20 employees.

BEST SEASON FOR PRUNING IN ORCHARD



The Low-Down Uniformly Pruned Tree Will Produce More Fruit, and of a Quality Superior to That of the Tall Tree.

(By M. COVERDELL.)

The next step in order is the pruning of trees, as the season's growth of wood is now thoroughly ripened and there will be no "bleeding" from the pruned branches, nor will there be any checking of development among the branches, both of which often comes as a result of spring pruning, since one is apt to put off doing this work till the sap begins to rise, or neglects to do it at all.

Next year's fruit crop depends largely upon the efficiency with which the pruning is done at this time. The uniform distribution of branches, height of the trees, and the health in general of all parts of them left for bearing fruit—all have their influence. Branches should not be left so long and slender that they will not support a goodly burden of fruit.

As a rule, all water sprouts, those straight shoots running directly upward from the main branches, should be removed. Limbs that are seen to be partly dead or decayed should be cut back until one is sure no part of them is left, as it would but invite further decay, and the sustenance drawn by them would be a useless drain on the vitality of the trees.

All tall, thick, or top-heavy trees demand close and careful pruning. Fruits which are reared high in mid-air are not as exempt from the action of the wind as if they were lower down. The top of the high tree itself is very apt to be caught in the high wind and damaged, perhaps ruined, by being broken down or torn up by the roots.

COATING MIXTURE FOR FARM TOOLS

Recipe for Preparation With Which to Treat Pieces of Steel or Iron Machines.

Do not get in such haste when putting tools away as not to look after any that may need repairs. If this cannot be attended to at the time of storing the tools, place the piece in the workshop until more leisure time is available, and then attend to it. A great saving of time will be effected in this way, and will help along when the time comes when there will be a half dozen jobs, or more, to be attended to at the same time.

Here is an old recipe for a preparation with which to coat pieces of steel or iron machines to protect them from rust: Melt together one pound of lard and a lump of rosin as large as a walnut. Heat the lard and add the rosin, which must first be reduced to a powder. Any piece of machinery that is coated with this mixture will be sufficiently protected from danger of rust.

Machines that have the proper care taken of them will last for years and give satisfactory service. And the owner will not be compelled to waste time in getting them repaired at some critical time when every minute counts so much; nor will he have to replace them with new ones every few years.

The low-down uniformly pruned tree also will produce more fruit, and of a quality superior to that of the tall tree, while the ease with which the fruit is picked from the low trees recommends them to all.

The ends of all low-hanging branches also should be pruned back, so that one can pass under them on foot, or with a vehicle in harvesting the fruit crop, which not only makes the picking handier, but avoids damaging the trees by peeling and breaking up the limbs.

After the pruning is completed, all pruned limbs should be removed from the orchard, the smaller ones being utilized for filling up washes about the farm, the larger ones being hauled to the wood pile and used for fuel. Where limbs of considerable size have been sawed off, the stub should be given a thick coat of paint, which will guard against the wood cracking during some of the very warm days that usually come before winter sets in.

Then this paint serves to hold the wood together during the severe freezing weather of midwinter.

Where it has been necessary to cut down whole trees that were dead or badly diseased, a note of these should be made so that one can fill in their places next spring with new, young trees of the same varieties.

It is also well to remember here that the old and diseased trees not only take up valuable space in the orchard, but they are liable to spread disease among the healthy trees, and they always harbor pests that are injurious to the entire orchard.

CARE OF POULTRY IN COLD WEATHER

Better to Have Small Flock in Good Condition Than Larger Number and Less Eggs.

The time is nearly here when the hens will have to be kept in the house out of the cold and storm. Remember that you must not try to keep too many hens in one house. Better a small flock in good condition and laying well, than a large flock with fewer eggs and twice the expense.

Leaves are good for the litter, and now is the time to save some for the hens to scratch this winter. Rake them up while they are plentiful, and store them somewhere under cover so that they will be ready for use.

Save a barrel of dry earth for the hens' dust bath this winter. Mixed with some wood ashes, and dampened just a little, it will be a great help to the hens in keeping them free from lice. If a box of it is placed in a sunny part of the hen house, the hens will enjoy bathing in it, and you will not need to use the insect powder so often.

"Shorts."

"Shorts," according to Webster, is the "bran and coarse parts of meal, in mixture." In some sections of the country bran is known as "shorts," and in other places, middlings bears that term.

SUCCESSFUL TRANSPLANTING OF TREES



The great demand for immediate effect in landscape work has been met by the successful transplanting of large trees. Care should be taken in the transportation of some. Photograph shows a tree ready for shipment.

GOOD ROADS

COUNTRY SCHOOL IS FACTOR

Good Roads Mean Higher Moral and Educational Standard—Should Be Regarded as Investment.

(By HOWARD H. GROSS.)

There is another factor that has an important bearing upon the highways, and that is the country school. Good roads mean better schools and a higher moral and educational standard; they bring the best instead of the worst out of people. Bad roads make one feel as though he did not care how he dressed or how he appeared. Wherever good roads are built the people begin to buy paint; the house and the barns are treated; the picket fence displaces the tumble-down one in front; rose bushes are planted and the lawn has attention; all these things come along apace. Hence good road building should not be regarded as an expense but as an investment. They will pay a larger and surer return than money invested in almost any other direction. A high authority has said that with good roads the farmer can take advantage of the market; with bad roads the market nearly always takes advantage of the farmer. How many times the situation arises when prices are good and the farmer would like to get his corn or oats off or his hogs, that the roads are nearly impassable? If he attempts to reach market he does so seriously handicapped. There is little doubt that with good roads and watching the market, the farmer can get a better price for what he has to sell.

Here is a significant fact that we should not forget: That no state or community ever began the building of good roads—we mean roads good 365 days in the year—and had the experience of using and paying for them, that they did not keep on building more and more good roads every year. The writer is not a prophet, but he makes this prediction: That before the gray hairs appear on the temples of the children who open their eyes first to the light of 1912, we will have a network of good roads that shall practically cover the whole country from Plymouth Rock to Puget sound, and along with that we will have a scientific agriculture that will double the farmer's profit, by showing how to produce his grain at practically one-half the present cost, and that this country will be the happiest, most progressive and enlightened of all the world.

RESULTS WILL BE INDIRECT

Missouri Roads Received but Temporary Improvements—Romans Built Slowly and Laboriously.

The chief results of the holiday of roadmaking recently promoted by the governor of Missouri are likely to be indirect. After having toiled and sweated in the sun those who took part will doubtless have a stronger interest in supporting good roads legislation, whether or not they are as keen to take part in the actual labor another year. But, while the Missouri roads may have received large temporary repairs and improvements, such a holiday, no matter how many participate in it, can hardly accomplish much in the way of permanent road making, says the Springfield Republican. And it is permanent road making of which the country stands in need. Without deprecating the Missouri performance it may be recalled that the Romans, the greatest road makers the world has known, did not do their work in spasmodic festivals; the roads that they built to last for centuries were built slowly and laboriously.

FEDERAL MONEY FOR ROADS

Appropriation of \$500,000, to Be Divided Among Thirty-Eight States Is Small Beginning.

The information conveyed through the American's Washington reports concerning the apportionment of \$10,000 to this state from the federal appropriation of \$500,000 to assist in building post roads in the various states is important when the full significance is considered. The appropriation of \$500,000, to be divided among forty-eight states, is a very small beginning in the way of building government post roads, but it is a beginning, says the Baltimore American. It is of great significance that the government has made a start in the direction of federal aid in road building. The \$10,000 apportioned to Maryland goes to pay for one-third the cost of a short section of road in Montgomery county.

Maintaining Good Roads.

The making of good roads is one of the most important duties of the American people and their prompt repair and careful maintenance is essential. There is probably no subject in which the progressive farmer is more deeply interested than that of having roads connecting him with his markets over which he may be able to haul the greater possible load. Good roads, like all other good things, are too expensive to build and of too much value to be neglected.

Reduce Living Cost.

Good roads help to reduce the cost of living.

HOPE TO RAISE LARGE SUM

Millions of Red Cross Christmas Seals to Be Sold for Anti-Tuberculosis Work.

Few people have any idea of the magnitude of the Red Cross Christmas seal campaign. This year over 100,000,000 seals have been printed and distributed. If placed end-to-end these seals would extend nearly 2,400 miles, or practically from New York to Salt Lake City. They have been sent to over 25,000 different agents and will be sold and handled by an army of not less than 100,000 volunteers, including men, women and children. Millions of advertising circulars have been scattered throughout the country, and so thoroughly has the advertising campaign been organized that it is doubtful if many people in the more populous states of the country will not have heard of the Red Cross seal and its mission in the prevention of tuberculosis. It is hoped that at least 50,000,000 seals may be sold this year. The principle upon which the sale of seals is based is that every cent except what little is needed to cover the actual cost of printing and handling shall be spent for tuberculosis work in the community where the seals are sold.

Lesson in Grammar.

Jenny's uncle, who was a school teacher, met her on the street one beautiful May day and asked her if she was going to the Maypole dance. "No, I ain't going." "Oh, my little dear," said her uncle, "you must not say 'I ain't going.' You must say 'I am not going,' and he proceeded to give her a little lesson in grammar. "You are not going. He is not going. We are not going. Now, can you say all that, Jenny?" "Sure I can," she replied, making a courtesy. "There ain't nobody going."

Important to Mothers
Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher* In Use For Over 30 Years.

Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Funny as a Crutch.
"Played a good joke on my fiancee."
"How was that, old top?"
"Had my chum meet her in the dark hall and he got the kiss intended for me. Good joke, eh, what?"

A Legacy.
"Binks inherits his wit."
"Yes, he writes the same jokes his grandfather wrote."

They stop the tickle—Dean's Mentholated Cough Drops stop coughs by stopping the cause—5c at Drug Stores.

The largest and highest cactus in the world is found in Arizona. It is 232 feet in height.

A man with a beard may use it as a barometer. Beards are harder and curlier as wet weather approaches.

Don't buy water for bluing. Liquid blue is almost all water. Buy Red Cross Ball Blue, the blue that's all blue. Adv.

Every man has his own idea of what a good time consists of.

35 BUSHELS PER ACRE
was the yield of WHEAT

160 ACRES
FARMS IN WESTERN CANADA
FREE

On many farms in Western Canada in 1913, some yields being reported as high as 35 bushels per acre. As high as 100 bushels were recorded in some districts for oats, 50 bushels for barley and from 10 to 20 bushels for flax.

J. Keys arrived in the country five years ago from Denmark with very little money. He homesteaded, worked hard, is now the owner of 320 acres of land. In 1913 he had a crop of 200 acres, which will realize him about \$4,000. His wheat weighed 88 lbs. to the bushel and averaged over 35 bushels to the acre.

Thousands of similar instances might be related of the homesteaders in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The crop of 1913 was an abundant one everywhere in Western Canada.

Ask for descriptive literature and reduced railway rates. Apply to Superintendent of I. migration, Ottawa, Canada, or

W. V. BENNETT,
See Building, Omaha, Neb.,
Canadian Government Agent

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Stop after dinner distress—cure indigestion, improve the complexion, brighten the eyes.

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