

THE BENNETT BANNER

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Christ and Christmas

Have we forgot the true meaning of Christmas? This is the question that will confront all of us who dare to venture beyond the idea of Santa as the only symbol of the birth of Christ; and, as has been the case in other instances, the question will go unanswered in many minds, shrugged aside by the slight remembrance that people do go to church on Christmas eve. But this is not enough! Never in a million years will such a thought suffice as an answer to whether one has remembered the real meaning of the word Christmas.

True, this business of discussing the disappearance of Christ in Christmas has almost, if not completely, become a hackneyed subject for this time of year, but as long as mankind ignores the implications and objectives of editorials such as this one, the issue must remain as a foremost concern to all.

It remains needless to say that this is the time of year when great rejoicing and merry making is also apropos, but it has also been the general trend of folks, both city and country, to pull out bells, gay lights, pine trees (decorated to no end), to contribute to the mad mobs of holiday shoppers, "run up" ridiculous shopping bills (most of which will not be paid until late in the New Year), to take long trips (called "Christmas vacations")—in general to make merry without remembering why or how this time of great rejoicing came to be. Somewhere in the hearts of a few will lurk the desire to give thought to the recollection of the Babe of Bethlehem, born of a virgin named Mary so that Mankind might be saved. But then, this is all that will happen to the remembrance, it will lurk in the hearts and minds of some, and cross the lips of still fewer.

A few years ago someone introduced X-M-A-S as a way of spelling Christmas. The "X" has replaced the word Christ. To students of mathematics "X" represents the unknown, and it would seem that this way of spelling Christmas has only served as admittance of the fact that while man knows little about Christ, he neither seeks to find out about Him, nor offers any reason for his ignorance. If man wishes to find this "unknown" is not the Bible his best source for reference? Is this not the purpose of the Bible?

As Christmas once again comes and goes this question will be asked a million times if not once: What has happened to the Christ in Christmas? When the answer has been found the question will erase itself, and not appear as "over-abused", "over-used", "hackneyed" subject matter for editorials and the like.

A Rewarding Career

Senior students who have chosen to enter the fields of elementary and secondary education are now engaged in one of the most rewarding experiences of their academic careers: practice teaching. In this phase of their professional training, aspiring teachers are placed in classroom situations where they may apply many of the methods they have learned in educational theory courses. In addition to this, they are able to become familiar with some of the teacher's responsibilities outside the classroom, and with the various factors which enable one to become a successful teacher.

Although it is necessary that the practice teacher be serious about her work, this does not diminish the enjoyment and deep satisfaction she finds in helping to develop young minds, and in seeing the results of this development in the daily improvement in her students. One comment often made by these budding teachers is that "each day presents a new challenge which stimulates me to my best efforts." Another frequently heard statement is: "I must study harder than ever to keep ahead of my students." It appears from these statements and others, that the practice teaching experience calls forth each participant's utmost endeavor, enabling her both to give, and receive greatest benefit from her work.

This year, almost 80 of our sisters are practice teaching in Greensboro, and in several neighboring communities. Let us hope that it will be for them, the pleasant and profitable experience that it should be.

A Safe Holiday Is A Happy Holiday---Use Caution

Banner Highlights

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Clark

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Clark were friends of the college of whom most of us know nothing. They were Methodist and through the church they became associated with the Bennett family.

These two wonderful people had little formal training, but they were greatly concerned about education. As a result, long before their death, they made over their property to the college. They felt they wanted what they had to be used in the cause of education, because they had such faith in what education could do for people. Because of this faith, Bennett College owns twelve acres of land in the vicinity of Asheboro and Trinity streets. This property is in the midst of a growing neighborhood and has increased in value over the years.

The Clarks, it is said, were delightful people—Mr. Clark being quite a philosopher and Mrs. Clark of a more practical nature. She was the moderator of the terrific arguments the Joneses and Mr. Clark had. More than this, Mrs. Clark has a great love for that which is beautiful. And so she had accumulated through the years lovely silver and fine linens.

This is an all too brief sketch of the personalities of two real friends of Bennett College who had such faith in the wonders of the Clarks' dream. Our lives are the richer, because they lived, dreamed, and gave.

Keeping Christmas Christian

Last Christmas, a long-lost former college classmate sent me a greeting card. I was delighted thus to resume a valuable friendship; but how disappointed I was when I studied the subject matter on that card. Above the signature of my friend there was the photograph of a poodle, apparently a family pet, and printed underneath was the usual "Merry Christmas." That was all.

I am still unable to discover the connection between the birth of Nazareth, which Christmas is intended to commemorate, and that picture of a member of the canine species. I had thought that the artists, both past and present, had provided us with ample works of The Nativity, The Holy Family, and The Madonna and Child, only to name a few. Surely, "Christ Mass", or Christmas, is an occasion when we celebrate the fact that God became incarnate in human flesh!

Why then resort to sentimental and irrelevant rubbish?

Therefore, as we obey the call of the hearth—home for Christmas, I make an earnest plea that this year we undertake to greet our friends by using greeting cards that are sensible and Christian.

And, while I am on the subject of Christian Christmas Cards, please indulge me in one further word regarding keeping Christ Himself in Christmas. Far be it from me to advocate any further multiplication of kill-joys. That tribe is already too numerous. On this latter account, I would suggest the addition of one more supplication to The Litany: "From those who plague us with impious notion that human nature is totally wicked, and that life is made to be dull and melancholic. Good Lord, deliver us, Amen."

At this Christmas season, let joy abound! The message to the shepherds was, "Fear not!" In addition to our beloved Christmas

Christmas Anyone?

The Editor

"Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse . . ." Why was no one stirring? Because all the creatures and the mice were down town doing their last minute Christmas shopping.

As the Christmas season approaches with the speed of a jet, we seek those persons, who are at home, counting their blessings and recapitulating the immortal Christmas Story, thinking of how glad they are that there was a star in the east. But where are we? The fires are out and the doors are locked.

The truth is, as was stated before, we are down town, shopping for a gift to just this and that persons' taste and price range.

Merchants are having a field day. Business is better than ever. Christmas decorations have been up since before Thanksgiving and suggestions for gifts have been out since after Hallowe'en. I must admit that I, too, have been taken in by all this fantasy of the Christmas season.

Even the younger generation has forgotten or did they ever know of the beautiful spirit behind Christmas and 'Good' St.

Nick? To them it's only a rest from that institution known as education; it means new clothes, toys and plenty of food; to the older generation, only rest.

Where has the Christmas Spirit gone? Out the window? Where are the days when families gathered around the family piano or Christmas tree and sang praises for the coming of the Christ Child?

The Christmas season has become so commercialized that we fail to recognize that the true spirit of this festive holiday has been killed, destroyed by elaborate displays and special rates and prices.

As for those persons with important jobs and national burdens on them, there will be only one day of Christmas. They will be plodding into such problems of our missile program, labor unions, and our educational program. But remember there are twelve days of Christmas. Let us count our blessings, let us sing to "God in the highest," and raise all our hopes to that star in the East, not to the heights of Sputnik and the moon.

There are twelve days of Christmas. Let us sing "Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come," and as the year progresses we will sing "The Lord is Risen", there is hope.

From the Exchange Files

FOR THE WELFARE OF ALL

It's sad but it's true: "regulations is regulations." Part of the foregoing sentence required the writer to steal from an old Army expression, but I find it very suitable to the current situation on the campus of Florida A and M. It has come to my attention that a policy has been written which requires all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors (city students included) to attend the Sunday evening vespers. NO EXCEPTIONS!

It seems as if the Student Board of Managers got together and drew up policies for this year, one of which included all students, with the exception of seniors, to attend the Sunday vespers. ALL in this case pertains to students living in areas not readily adjacent to the campus of Florida A and M; all students who happen to be married and trying to set

Carols, let us find time to "tune-up" on "Jingle Bells", and "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer". And let us not neglect to put a match to the Yuletide Log. But what a pity that so many people have resolved to transform Christmas into a buying spree, and into a merchants' holiday! Shame on those who thus desecrate this Holy Day. Shame on those who have taken advantage of our responsiveness to the Saviour's teaching, when He said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

When we consider those misguided "artists" who have "jazzed-up" some of the Christmas hymns and several of the Christmas Carols, and when we call to mind some of our neighbors who do not know, yet, that the Christmas Spirit is not a beverage that is distilled or fermented, nor is the Christmas Spirit packaged in a case or dispensed from a flask, many of us on this campus are constrained to ask, "How long, O Lord?"

A joyous Christmas to you!

John L. Bryan

Director, Religious Activities

up homes in Polkinghorne Village; and all students who may belong to some church organizations which may hold meetings at the particular time that vespers is held. The board met, made its policies, and NO allowances were made for any students anywhere. In other words, if you don't live on the campus, or within close walking distance, that's just "tuff". Get here the best way you can, but get here! . . .

There is one consolation, though: all LEGAL excuses will have to be cleared through the personnel dean. Legal excuses—red tape.

—The Famuan

HOW TO STUDY

Do you know how to study? Is it an easy simple method? When you are studying are you learning? Are you understanding what you are studying? If not—why not try this new and easy method. It is called the PQRST system. This is the way it works:

P—stands for preview—Preview your assignments. Look at the topic headings. Read the first sentence of each paragraph and all summarizing paragraphs thoroughly. Try to grasp the general idea.

Q—stands for questions—Ask yourself questions that you expect to find in your textbook. Keeping questions in the back of your mind will help you to think.

R—stands for read—Now that you have previewed your assignments and asked yourself questions; read your lesson all the way through.

S—stands for state—After you have finished reading your lessons, look quickly or glance at the very first paragraph and look away then try to state it.

T—stands for Test—Test your memory the next day by repeating the stating process. This is very important. Later, you will be able to face the class exam with Eddie Fisher's composure instead of being "All Shook Up" like Elvis Presley.

—The Bethunia