

BARNHARDT DISCUSSES CHRIST'S LOWLY BIRTH

"Jesus the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever," Reasserts Mr. Billups.

SLOW TO ACCEPT CHRIST

The lowliness of Christ's birth and the exaltation which characterized the angels' attitude toward Him, together with the deplorable tendency of men to refuse to accord to the Savior His rightful place, were the cardinal points in the Christmas sermon which Rev. J. H. Barnhardt, D. D., the pastor, preached at West Market Street Methodist church Sunday morning.

The 10th and 11th verses of the second chapter of Saint Luke constituted the minister's text.

"And the angel said unto them, 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 Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

First Dr. Barnhardt talked of the humanitarian aspects of Christmas. From that standpoint it is of great importance. Family and fraternal reunions kindle fires of affection which brilliantly illumine the chambers of the heart. In vivid verbal colors he painted a picture of the mother with clasped hands in tense expectancy awaiting the coming of her long absent son. He told of the mother's heart thrilled with pride and love as she welcomed him again; of her journey into the sphere of happy recollection as in spirit she recalled some loved one from beyond the grave.

However, the chief significance of Christmas is the Nativity, the pastor pointed out. It is cheering to think of the universality of the Christmas celebration. Everywhere men pay tribute to the child born in Bethlehem. Unless our devotion to Christ be paramount, our celebration of Christmas cannot be truly significant.

It was significantly recalled that Christ was refused admission to the inn, and so He was born in a lowly manger. Thus were scriptural prophecies fulfilled, and that was one of the finest things in connection with His incarnation.

The angels acclaimed Him, but men were slow to recognize His kindly attributes. It is distressing to note that today in many instances that same reluctance prevails. He comes and knocks at the door of our hearts—and not always does He find responsiveness there. The minister made a plea for admission of the Savior into human hearts. Then He will direct our affairs, He will rule the human relationships as well as the spiritual. He will establish His blessed kingdom in the hearts of men.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever." Those words, the eighth verse of the 13th chapter of Hebrews, were employed as the text by Rev. E. P. Billups, the assistant pastor, in his sermon Sunday night.

Our close personal relationship to Jesus Christ must necessarily be an integral part of the true Christmas spirit, according to Rev. Mr. Billups, who emphasized the fact that while our minds are finite and cannot comprehend the deep mysteries of God, we can nevertheless, with the eyes of faith, see Him and recognize Him as the Captain of our salvation.

The word "fleeting" might well be written upon all material things, but the minister was devoutly thankful that God is an unchanging God, truly the same yesterday, today and forever. At the same time He is a personal God; He is love; and He is the Savior of the world. Then, too, He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Rev. Mr. Billups exhorted his hearers to be obedient to the commands of Jesus Christ.

Miss Eugenia Patterson sang, "Star of the East," at the morning service. In the evening Mr. Hatfield sang, "Joy to the World!"

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MR. HAYES DISCUSSES ISAIAH'S PROPHECIES

Prophecy of Isaiah the Hope That Fed Dying Fires On Israel's Altars.

THE HOPE OF THE WORLD

Those worshipping at Park Place Methodist church Sunday morning heard an unusual Christmas sermon by the pastor, Rev. L. B. Hayes, who, getting away from the usual platitudes, delivered a powerful discourse on the advent of the Messiah.

Isaiah 9:8 furnished the text; the subject was: "Founding the Spiritual Empire." This said Mr. Hayes, was a part of the greatest utterance of Israel's greatest prophet. The gifted seer, who prophesied for more than 60 years, during the reign of four kings and who had seen the material growth of the empire and the decay of religion, looked down the unborn ages for 700 years and sounds out the great and only hope—the Messianic promise. Schaeppenhour is said to have said the Jews for their optimism, said the pastor, the optimism made up of unquenchable hope in the advent of the Redeemer. This was the hope that fed the dying fires on Israel's altars and preserved the faithful remnant for the saving of the race.

Speaking of Isaiah's clear conception of the office of Christ, Mr. Hayes said that only eyes that were lighted by the glory of God could look down the corridors of time to the distant day of the Advent, and only a mind touched with the wisdom of God could have declared his office. With grand sweep and scope he omits the details of the Master's work and says: "The government shall be on His shoulders." What did this mean? Over what kingdom was he to reign, and in what manner? To the Jews this child was of royal lineage and the prophet spoke of his reigning upon the throne of David. Thus their greatest king was to have a worthy successor, who might break the yoke of Roman despotism. The eager ambition of every Jew was to restore their fallen dynasty in all its pristine glory. But Jesus did not come to restore and perpetuate the Jewish theocracy, nor was he concerned about any temporal or physical regime, said the pastor. His kingdom was not of this earth, and he was to manage human temporal governments only indirectly. He disdained earthly honors and looked with disdain on temporal kingdoms.

Jesus found the world with its head full of errors, empty of spirituality, its whole life full of impurity, Corinth, Ephesus and Rome all unrepentable in their corruption. The latter city was being founded when Isaiah prophesied, and though called the eternal city, was in process of dissolution when Jesus came. Pharaoh, Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon and the Kaisers have had their day and ceased to be; while the spiritual empire goes on gaining until it conquers the earth. Conquers it, continued Mr. Hayes, but not by physical force and the sword. The method of His conquest was by the way that leads through Gethsemane, up Calvary and ended on the cross—the way of a dying and inescapable love. That is the way to win the heart of the world.

Mr. Hayes closed with a stirring appeal to his hearers to let Jesus Christ into the kingdom of their hearts—his rightful place in every life. His Christmas message, he said, was not an outburst of sentiment, but an earnest appeal to examine oneself and see if Jesus is Lord and Master.

Mrs. A. W. Bagley sang a solo, "Night of Nights," and there was an anthem, "Behold I bring you good tidings." At the evening service Mary Henri Robinson sang: "Holy Night."

BALDWIN, TRINITY COACH, IS SIGNED UP BY LEHIGH

Man Who Directed Trinity Football Team Last Fall Has Three-Year Contract With Pennsylvanians.

Announcement has been made at Lehigh university, Bethlehem, Pa., that James Baldwin, athletic director at Trinity college, will be resident football and baseball coach at Lehigh next year. Baldwin, according to the Lehigh report, has signed a three-year contract.

He came to Trinity last fall to succeed Floyd Egan as director of athletics at the Methodist institution. Presumably he will complete the year at Trinity. His work last fall with the Trinity football squad was regarded as unusually successful for a coach coming south for the first time. Under his leadership with Herman Stueber assisting, Trinity although faltering in mid-season, came through with notable games against Wake Forest and New York university, defeating the Baptists and tying the New York team. He was well liked at Trinity and his loss unquestionably will be keenly felt.

Baldwin learned his football at Dartmouth, where he played tackle. For the past nine years he has been in coaching. Three years were devoted to high school work, and he followed this up with coaching at Rhode Island State, in the army, and at the University of Maine.

Frank Gluck, the former Princeton captain and quarterback, coached Lehigh last fall with a fair amount of success, but since the football season closed Lehigh has been looking over the field for a football coach. No announcement has been made as to Baldwin's successor at Trinity.

LUTHERAN CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN CITY

One of a Series of State Sectional Conferences Has Been Scheduled For December 27 to 31.

Sectional conferences will be held all over North Carolina under the auspices of the state Lutheran league, December 27-31.

One of these will be held in the First Lutheran church of this city, December 27, with sessions at 2 and 7:30 p. m. The afternoon session will be given over to a conference, with members of the executive committee of North Carolina in charge. At the night session an address will be delivered by Rev. M. L. Sturtevant, D. D., of Concord, N. C. At the local conference delegates are expected from Winston-Salem, High Point, Gibsonville, Liberty, Burlington, the Guilford pastorate and others.

CHANGE IN RECEIVERSHIP FOR BANK AT LA GRANGE

(Special to Daily News.)
Kinston, Dec. 25.—It is reliably stated here that Judge W. A. Devin had issued an order removing the La Grange Bank and Trust company from the receivership of the Farmers' Bank and Trust company, of that town, and naming John G. Dawson, local lawyer and member of the general assembly, as receiver. Mr. Dawson said such an order had been issued.

The Farmers' Bank and Trust company was closed in December, 1920, with assets of \$600,000 and heavy liabilities.

The change of receivers was ordered. It was stated, on the requests of big creditor banks.

House Damaged by Fire.
A house on Clinton street, occupied by Dora Milton, negro, was badly damaged by fire of undetermined origin which was discovered shortly before 9 o'clock last night.

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