

Christmas Sermon

(Continued from Page 1)

that period of the four weeks including the four to give us the Christ of Christmas!

Have you ever wondered how we came to use this date of December 25th? The truth is that it was not until the 4th century that Christians started a planned period of Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's Birthday. They did it, in large part, to offset the harmful influences of the Saturnalia of the Romans. This pagan festival observance had become a time of drinking, rioting, revelry and excesses, until St. Francis came along with his wonderful idea of the manger scene to be dramatically placed at the center of this holy time. He lighted a candle as a reminder that the Christ whom God sent as a Saviour must always be the supreme object of adoration.

Today we need the reminder that this is His celebration, that He is the center about whom it must all revolve.

A mother sent her little child to attend his first Church School Christmas party. She carefully explained to her son that the occasion was actually Jesus' birthday party. But upon returning home, in response to the usual question concerning enjoyment, the boy replied with the simple directness of a child: "It was a nice party but Jesus didn't come." He could not understand a birthday party without its honored guest!

The tragedy is that there will be many places this Christmas where Christ will continue to be excluded. People will give gifts to those they do not love, and people will receive gifts they do not want or need.

LET US NOW TURN FROM THE WORLD'S WAY OF KEEPING CHRISTMAS AND LOOK AT GOD'S PREPARATION. HERE WE FIND LIGHT ON HOW CHRISTIANS ARE PRIVILEGED TO KEEP THIS HOLY SEASON.

The prophecies of Isaiah and Micah are filled with the account of God's Preparation. This is no accident but the fruit of centuries of preparation. God began early—here is the word of God—coming through the prophet Isaiah some 800 years before the birth of Christ: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." God

enabled His spokesman to give the truth that Christ was to be the Prince of Peace.

The Hebrew people longed for a Messiah. At first they pictured him as a warrior-deliverer who would crush their enemies, bring prosperity, and set them free. Gradually these crude materialistic ideas changed. The prophets, more than any other group, came to know that the Messiah would be a man of peace. He would judge the world with righteousness, not with a sword.

Again, this Prince of Peace was to be God's promised redeemer for His people. He would make a new covenant not by writing laws on stone tablets, but by writing laws on the tablets of human hearts.

Yet, this Redeemer would not come without great cost. With supreme patience God creates the world; and slowly He allows history to unfold. He observes the gradual evolving of a culture, of a people, and, at long last, he climaxes it by coming as a baby on a mound of hay in a crude manger. God had visited the earth before and had expressed his presence in a flaming bush, in a smoking and quaking mountain, and in the messages of his spokesmen, the prophets. Now he comes into our world in human flesh. As an infant he limits himself to the loveliest of all languages in the world: a baby's low cry.

Abraham, Moses, Job, and David were all imperfect men, and we today are no better. Yet, God waits for us with the Supreme Gift in His hands. Often we say that we are waiting for Christmas. A deeper truth is this: Christmas is waiting for us!

WHAT CAN THIS TRUTH OF THE MESSIAH AS A PRINCE OF PEACE MEAN TO US TODAY?

Many of us are discouraged and embittered because we do not see real peace in our world. Could it be that we have been working at this matter from the wrong direction? We long for peace between nations while we neglect the one place where we can now have peace. The place it must begin is within our own hearts. Around the lowly manger there gathered shepherds, wise men, Jews, Gentiles, rich and poor, wise and foolish. They were one in Him.

During these last days and hours of Advent, let us see our Master as God's Promised Messiah, the Prince of Peace. Let that peace rule and reign in your heart, and, through you, let it change others so that ultimately it will bring peace among nations. This is the cost of peace!

Bids Sought For Work On New Parkway Link

Sealed bids are now being sought by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads for construction work on 1.836 miles of a new section of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Swain County, starting at Ravensford and extending eastward toward Wolf Laurel.

Dealing with Section 2-Z-2, the contracts calls for 312,400 cubic yards of excavation, 60,000 tons of crushed gravel, and 2,950 linear feet of concrete-covered pipe.

Work to be done on the 1.83 mile portion includes grading, draining, and application of a base course of crushed rock.

The sealed bids will be opened at 1:30 p.m. January 13 at the Gatlinburg office of the Bureau of

Public Roads.

Plans, specifications, and proposal forms for Section 2-Z-2 are now available from U. S. Division Engineer H. J. Spelman, 1440 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Va.

Bids also are expected to be asked soon on Section 2-Z-5 for heavy grading, and 2-Y-7 for lining of three tunnels. A third contract will involve the construction of several bridges.

Prior to the start of World War II, approximately five miles of roadway were graded and tunnels were built for the Blue Ridge Parkway from Wolf Laurel to Bunches Creek.

When completed, the total

Maggie Kiwanis To Distribute Food Baskets

Food baskets for needy families in the Maggie area were prepared last night by the Maggie Valley Kiwanis Club at Mount Valley Grill.

In charge of the program was Sam McCrary, club president, and Albert Siler, chairman of the Kiwanis Underprivileged Childers Committee.

A guest at the meeting last night was Richard Parham, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. W. Parham, who is now stationed at Camp Gordon, Ga.

length of the Parkway link from Soco Gap to Ravensford will be approximately 13 miles. Length of the section to be constructed from Wolf Laurel (on the Soco-Mile High link) to Ravensford is about nine miles.

Sheriff Campbell Back In Office For Short Periods

Sheriff Fred Y. Campbell who was injured December 2 in the wreck of a prison truck in West Asheville, has been spending short periods of time in his office this week, but will not be back on full-time duty for some time.

He is scheduled to have a check-up at Asheville December 28.

The sheriff, the driver of the prison truck bound for Central Prison in Raleigh, and eight newly convicted prisoners were injured when the truck skidded on a patch of ice and overturned off the highway.

Fertilizer injury to pepper plants is common in North Carolina and results in slower early growth, poorer stands, and reduced yields.

Bookmobile Schedule

Friday, Dec. 23	
CRUSO	
Robert Freeman	9:30
Sam Freeman	10:00
Cruso Grocery	10:15
Cruso School	10:45
Dois Rogers	11:45
Mrs. Ella Pless	12:15
J. S. Williams	12:30
Burnett Cash Grocery	1:00
Tuesday, Dec. 27	
JONATHAN C. - I. JUNALUSKA	
Burkin's Store	9:15
R. W. Howell	9:45
Rock Hill School	10:15
Mrs. Ethel Boyd	11:15
Jesse Hannah	11:45
Orvil Shelton	12:15
Francis Wyatt	12:45
Junaluska Supply	1:15



BE SURE TO

VOTE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29th

BURLEY

REFERENDUM

Marketing quotas for burley tobacco will continue in effect if approved by at least two-thirds of the growers voting in the referendum Thursday, December 29, 1955.

Farmers who produced burley tobacco in 1955 are eligible to vote in the referendum.

Each producer will have an opportunity to vote on the question, "Are you in favor of marketing quotas for burley tobacco for the 3 years beginning October 1, 1956?"

If quotas are approved there will be:

- Acreage allotments and marketing quotas for 1956, 1957, and 1958
- Price supports
- Marketing quota penalties on excess tobacco

If quotas are disapproved there will be:

- No acreage allotments and marketing quotas in 1956
- No price support
- No marketing quota penalties on excess tobacco

THIS MESSAGE SPONSORED IN THE INTEREST OF BETTER BURLEY PRODUCTION BY THE FOLLOWING FIRMS:

- CLINE - BRADLEY CO.
- FARMERS EXCHANGE
- KETNER'S
- H. S. WARD
- HAYWOOD COUNTY FARMERS CO-OP
- PARTON'S FEED STORE



Transactions In REAL ESTATE

Waynesville Township
Paul James and wife to Richard Muse and wife.
Hardy Richard Stinnett and wife to H. C. White and wife.
M. J. Hamner and wife to Sylvia Davis.
Ralph A. Wood and wife to Jer-

ry Jenkins and wife.
Sylla Davis to M. J. Hamner and wife.
Roger Wilson and wife to Beatrice Wilson.

Beaverdam Township
Pearl Medford to William B. Welch and wife.
J. G. Miller and wife to Thomas

Eugene Wilson and wife.
Ivy Hill Township
Medford Leatherwood and wife and others to Paul Ferguson.

Jonathan Township
Clayton Green and wife to Bertha Green.
Clayton Green and wife to Bob Green and Pearl Green.

An Important Issue For Burley Growers

The Burley Tobacco Referendum on December 29th, is one of the most important issues facing tobacco growers today. A "YES" vote by two-thirds of the farmers casting ballots will mean that acreage allotments and price supports will be continued in their present form for the next three tobacco crops — A vote of "NO" on more than one-third of the ballots will mean that the price support program and acreage allotments will be discontinued.

It is an important issue... one that concerns every Burley grower in Haywood County... and we urge you to go to the polls on Thursday, December 29th, and cast your ballot according to your own convictions.

The First National Bank

Organized 1902

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Member Federal Reserve System