

A Hymn Is Born

BY CLINT BONNER

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

A typesetter fills out a page

The printer set the type for the Church of England's "Book of Common Prayer." The composition—"make-up" as printers call it—was giving him trouble. He needed more copy to make the pages come out even. Finding a hymn-poem that began "Hark, Hark, Hark, by an Angelic choir named Charles Wesley, the printer filled in the blank space.

In assuming the role of editor, the typesetter really stuck his neck out. Of all people, Charles Wesley! The doors of every Anglican church in the empire had been closed to both him and his brother, John. They could preach their Arminian doctrine of "free grace" in barns and pastures, but not in a building of the church they so brazenly criticized.

And certainly no hymn written by one of the "dirty, lousy Methodists" would be tolerated in the Book of Common Prayer. But the printer didn't know all that. The book went to press. And "the greatest Christmas hymn in the English language" was saved for posterity.

Learning shorthand from scholarly John Byron, Charles Wesley usually jotted down his poems in a hurry. To write 5300 in one lifetime, considering he didn't get started until he was 31, he had to work rapidly. Nor did he take time to "polish" his poems. "Hark, Hark, Hark, by an Angelic choir named Charles Wesley" has been edited

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Gloria to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angels proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Gloria to the new-born King."

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Lays in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin womb,
Veiled in flesh and God-head seen,
Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to appear,
Jesus our Immanuel here,
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Gloria to the new-born King."



From The Book 'A HYMN IS BORN' Copyright 1952
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Use Materials For Decorations On Hand Xmas

Give your home a festive appearance by using evergreens, berries, seed pods and pine cones that you have on hand, suggests Pauline Gordon, State College extension specialist in housing and house furnishings.

These simple decorations which you have in abundance and cost no money will add greatly to the charm of your home. "However," cautions Miss Gordon, "do not injure a tree by putting it for decoration - prune carefully small sprays of evergreens."

Miss Gordon says that the Christmas tree - whether large or small - should be the center of the decorations. Place your tree in front of a window, so that its bright, cheerful glow can be seen from within and without. Decorate your tree with balls of red, silver, blue and green, strands of popcorn and various decorations that are saved from year to year.

And be sure to hang a rope of evergreens, a spray of wreath on your front door - it will signify to many who pass your home that you are celebrating this joyous season.

A rope of evergreens requires 4 or 5 yards of rope. The place you plan to use it will determine the length. Other materials needed are: Short lengths of wire (about 15 to 18 inches); short sprays of evergreen; balls, bows, red berries or bells. Place a bunch of evergreen against the rope and fasten in place with wire. Repeat until the rope has been completely covered. Drape the rope over your door frame, mantel or along the stair rail. Locate spots where an additional decoration like berries, ball and bells would be effective and then wire into the decoration.

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Scriptures: Isaiah 23:4; 9:2, 5:7; 65:17-21; Matthew 6:9; Luke 2:14; Devotional Reading: Luke 1:98-79.

Prince of Peace

Lesson for December 20, 1953

GOD'S will is for a warless world. No one can read the prophets and make anything else out of it. God's will is for peace in this world. Peace among angels, yes, peace beyond death, yes; of course; but that is not the whole of it. God's will is for peace among men, peace on this good green earth. So long as there are wars, we know that God's will and intention for mankind is being resisted. God wants a warless world.

Leader To Peace

One of the many names for Christ is "Prince of Peace," a title given by a prophet long before his birth. It will be worth our while to look into that title this week and see what exactly is meant by it, for it is much more than a striking phrase. The word "Prince" has nothing necessarily to do with royalty, though it often does. Its literal meaning is leader, captain, chief.

As Prince of Peace therefore, our Lord is Leader of Peace. But again, the title may mean more things than one. Let us start with "Leader to Peace." In this sense, Christ is one who points out the road to peace, shows mankind what peace means. As the Bible uses the word, peace does not mean simply the ebbing of a battle-tide, the lull between attacks. It is not a negative word. It is positive. The kind of peace to which Christ points is not mere indifference, it is based on love and good-will. For instance, as these lines are written, the United States is at peace with Canada. It is also at peace with many other countries. But while it is barely possible that war might break out with any nation, it is probably less likely to break out with Canada than with countries with which we have less in common and for whose people our own people have a much weaker affection. True peace is based on mutual good-will. Jesus taught us much more about peace; for example his reference to "peace-makers." But we must pass on.

Leader Of Peace

Another meaning that may fairly be given to "Prince of Peace" is "Leader by Peace." That is to say, the leadership and Lordship of Christ is never one of coercion. There have been leaders by the sword; for the human race is all too easily misled; there is one and only one Leader of men who will reign only through love.

At Christmas time men often wonder why it is that the angelic song has never been fulfilled. Peace has never come on earth to stay. Peace is always pictured as a bird poised for flight. The reign of Christ is "Prince of Peace" seems to be so slowly coming. The reason is that unlike all earthly leaders, Christ will have none in his kingdom who is not there by his own free will. God could no doubt beat the world into silent submission in a very short time. It is not beyond the power of the Almighty to bring every human war to an end.

Based on an address given at the annual meeting of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America, Inc., at Washington, D. C., Dec. 15, 1953.

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-Go To Church Sunday-

The Abounding Grace Of God

BY REV. C. HERMAN TRUEBLOOD

TEXT: "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Romans 5:20.

The 6th chapter of Romans is one of the truly great chapters of the New Testament. In the first eleven verses of this chapter Paul points out what might be designated as the seven wonders, or fruits, of justification which come to those who, by faith, lay hold of eternal life. These precious fruits of justification are: "Peace," verse 1; "Access," verse 2; "Patience," verse 3; "Hope," verse 4; "Love," verse 5; "Holy Spirit," verse 5; "The Living Christ," verses 6 - 10.

Immediately following Paul's description of justification's seven fruits, he hurries to set forth seven matchless spiritual victories - not of law, not of good deeds, not of rites and ceremonies - but THE VICTORY OF GOD'S GRACE OVER SIN. These seven triumphs of divine grace are revealed in one of the profoundest messages ever penned by Paul the Apostle. Observe:

1. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER ORIGINAL SIN "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned - much more the grace of God, and the gift of grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many." Verses 12 and 15.
2. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER OVERT OFFENCES. "For the judgement was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification." Verse 16.
3. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER THE REIGN OF DEATH. "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." Verse 17.
4. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER CONDEMNATION. "Therefore, as by the offence of one judgement came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." Verse 18.
5. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER DISOBEDIENCE. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Verse 19.
6. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER BROKEN LAW. "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Verse 20.
7. THE VICTORY OF GRACE OVER ULTIMATE DEATH. "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." Verse 21.

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The Christian Viewpoint

Prepared By Department of Bible
PRESBYTERIAN JUNIOR COLLEGE
Maxton, N. C.

It is a long trip by automobile from North to Memphis on the banks of the lordly Mississippi, and wearing. So I was sleeping late in one of the big hotels by the river-side. As I awoke I heard the servants counting something in the hall linen I suppose. Then one of them began to whistle. As he swept the

hall he was whistling "What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear, What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer."

It gave me a contented feeling. In this big hotel the servants were singing Christmas hymns. I lay still and listened. He started whistling "In the cross, in the cross, Be my glory ever, Till my raptured soul shall find, Rest beyond the river."

God has blessed America when in all our great organizations and businesses the servants are singing. And really, all of us are servants all of us are ministering to the needs and comfort of others in some way. It is a great thing when there is a song in our hearts which makes us whistle as we work.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing; Then said they among the nation, The Lord hath done great things for us, Whereof we are glad." Psalm 126:2-3.

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