

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

GOD'S GREAT GIFT

International Sunday School Lesson
For December 26

Golden 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.

Lesson Text: Matthew 2:1-12.

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. While our time is calculated from his birth, because of an error made in A. D. 526 by Dionysius Exiguus, the monk who made the first calendar based upon this event, the correct date of the birth of Jesus is B. C. 5. December 25 has been traditionally accepted as the actual

day and month.

The birth place of Jesus was Bethlehem, five miles out of Jerusalem, in the province of Judea. Augustus, first emperor of Rome, ordered a general census of the empire. While the Roman custom was that each person be enrolled in the place of residence, the Jews were allowed to follow their custom and enroll in their ancestral city.

Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth, the little village of Galilee, was descended from King David and, therefore, traveled a little over 70 miles southward to be enrolled in the City of David.

It was while Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, crowded with countless strangers present for the enrollment, that Jesus was born. Because of the many visitors,

there was no room in the inn, and Jesus was born in a cave nearby, customarily used as a stable.

Dr. David J. Burrell offers the excuse of the innkeeper in the following imaginary words: "The man was a mere peasant, a carpenter, as he told me, from the despised town of Nazareth. Which of the distinguished guests in my caravansary—priests, rabbis, wealthy traders—could I displace to make room for him? Shelter in the cave nearby was better for them than to rest under open sky. There were cattle there and beasts of burden, so that the place afforded shelter from the wind; and there was barely straw to rest on."

The custom of observing anniversaries is widespread, as William Lyon Phelps wrote not long ago: "The birthdays of great men, especially when their lives have been a blessing to mankind, are widely celebrated. We make much of the birthdays of great poets, musicians and statesmen. But of all the millions and millions of individuals who have appeared on this planet, the first place in the hearts of men, women and children, is held by Jesus Christ. No person in history has ever had or ever will have, a birthday celebration like His. Christmas is the supreme birthday. It is celebrated by more people, in more countries, and with more positive rejoicing than is given not only to any other birthday but to any anniversary of any kind."

The birth of Jesus was announced to shepherds by a group of angels. It was in keeping with his future life that the first notice of the advent of Jesus should be made to humble men, and not to princes and kings. The shepherds were frightened by the spiritual apparition but the first words spoken to them were comforting, telling them not to be afraid.

"They who have accepted the Christian tidings of a loving Author and Ruler of the universe," says the Rev. John Williams Bradshaw, "and have dared to live as if those tidings were true, have found that the exhortation of the herald angel, 'Fear not,' is fully warranted. In this banishment of fear from the hearts of men were the one sole gift of Christmas to the world, what words could overstate its worth?"

The first Christmas carol was sung by the heavenly host, following which the shepherds immediately departed to find the baby whose birth had been told them.

At this period of world-wide distress every Christian should bear in mind the words of Jesus that it is more blessed to give than to receive. He devoted his life to serving mankind and seeking to advance the happiness of humanity. His followers could not better celebrate the anniversary of his birth than by making some contribution to this same purpose, however small and slight that contribution may be because of resources and ability of the individual contributor. There are millions of people in distress of mind and soul—who need evidences of the love and spirit of Christ this Christmas-tide.

And why shouldn't this spirit of loving service continue throughout the year? If we would only remember that God so loved us (the world) that he gave his only Son to save us, then we, His children, should respond to that love always. If we would do that, then every day would be like Christmas day!

Wanted No Slip Up
Lover (eloping with his adored)—
How much is the fare?
Taxi Driver That's all right, sir.
The young lady's father settled all that.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

TAYLOR THEATRE

EDENFON, N. C.
WE HAVE THE SHOWS

Friday, Dec. 24—
Open 1:30 Continuously
Shows Until 11 P. M.
Roy Rogers in
"HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER"
Also Chapter 10 "Masked Marvel"

Saturday, Dec. 25—
Special Christmas Program
Theatre Opens 3:15. Shows
Continuous Until 11 P. M.
Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy in
"DANCING MASTERS"
Also Comedy and Cartoon

Sunday, Dec. 26—
Billie Burke and Donald Woods in
"SO'S YOUR UNCLE"
Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 27-28—
Richard Tregaskis'
"GUADALCANAL DIARY"

Wednesday, Dec. 29—
Double Feature 11c and 25c
Evelyn Keyes in
"DANGEROUS BLONDES"
Allan Jones in
"LARCENY WITH MUSIC"

Thursday-Friday, Dec. 30-31—
James Cagney in
"JOHNNY COME LATELY"
New Year's Eve Midnight Show—
Ted Lewis and His Orchestra in
"IS EVERYBODY HAPPY?"



MERRY CHRISTMAS

We see no reason to change our Christmas sentiment this year, although we realize the difficult times that all have been through. We are equally conscious of the importance of Christmas and the opportunity it gives us to renew old acquaintances and to encourage new ones. Let us set this one day aside to forget the unpleasant realities of life and to remember the pleasant associations of friends and loved ones. Let us look forward to a season of complete enjoyment; making the best of the facilities that are ours. We wish each of you a joyous Yuletide and a Season of contentment.



WINSLOW - WHITE MOTOR COMPANY

HERTFORD, N. C.

A WEALTH OF



MAY THE JOYS OF
THE CHRISTMAS SEASON GO
WITH YOU ALL THROUGH THE NEW YEAR

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Mrs. Jake White

Second Floor Simon's

Hertford, N. C.

GREETINGS

"One Nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all." It seems important to us that this pledge of allegiance to our flag is singularly appropriate at Christmas time. The observance of this pledge with a background of the true meaning of Christmas can only lead to a world of happiness with the brotherhood of man as a predominating factor.

The combination of these thoughts at Christmas time will mean a genuine happy American Christmas.

Reed Oil Company

"ESSO PRODUCTS"

HERTFORD, N. C.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

For many years it has been our custom to extend season's greetings to those whom we have the privilege of serving. It has been a custom to which we have looked forward with great anticipation as it always gives us an opportunity to tell you of our appreciation for your loyalty and patronage. These Christmas sentiments have been extremely personal with us because of the many contacts which we have had with our friends in the past.

Our greeting this year takes on added importance. We are fully conscious of your problems, your disappointments, of dreams unrealized, and in some instances personal sacrifices. It is with full knowledge of your experiences during the past year that we attempt to convey our thoughts in this message. When we say "Merry Christmas,"

we want you to realize that the sentiment is deeper than the words imply. We want you to accept this as a personal message especially for you, so that you may understand our desire to share our disappointments as well as your happiness.

It is for that reason we prefer to reflect the true Christmas spirit in order that those with whom we are associated may obtain a degree of happiness and understanding. Let us endeavor to make this a joyous season, employing the traditions of Christmas to their fullest extent with the thought in mind that in the not too far distant future, we will again enjoy an old-fashioned American Yuletide. Sincere Christmas wishes to you—our friends.

The SOUTHERN COTTON OIL CO.

Hertford, N. C.