

The Shining Star of Christmas

Hymns from "Christian Christmas Carols."

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Hymns of Worship

Oh Come All Ye Faithful	p. 09
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen	p. 10
Joy to the World	p. 11

(Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11 KJV)

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

9 ...and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

There is much we do not know about this star of Bethlehem. There are a few things we can say, though. It was seen in the east by people who made a living looking at stars. It was unique enough for them to leave their comforts of home and travel hundreds of miles under very difficult conditions to follow the significance of this phenomenon. The "wise men" knew (or, at least, guessed) this was a sign of the birth of the King of the Jews - a special King, indeed! We also know that this star moved and was strategically, intelligently controlled to indicate to the wise men where this King was. There is one more thing we can say about this star - it was lighted - it was bright - it was noticeable - it's light drew the attention of the wise men and led them to the King. They had not seen any other star like this star!

Now you may be asking yourself, "What does this have to do with the difficulties of life that I find myself now facing. What with all this change in my life, all the suffering I have endured, all the lost I have experienced, all the toll that growing older has taken on my body and my mind? What does this star thing have to do with me?"

There is a very important answer to this very important question! If you call yourself a "Christian;" if you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior and your Friend, then there is a very ironic similarity between your circumstances and the role this star played in the Christmas story.

(Matthew 5:14-16 KJV)

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

You are God's star in your little corner of the world. People are hungry for just a glimmer of light in their lives. A little joy. A little peace. A little kindness. A little love!

(John 15:12 KJV)

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Look into the life of your neighbor who lives with you in this facility. Do they need someone to be patient them? Do they need to see the light of Jesus shining on the face of a friend who understands and cares about them? Do they need encouragement in their faith in Jesus Christ? Do they need a glimmer of kindness and forgiveness in their life?

(1Corinthians 13:4-5 NLT)

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud

5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

There is the light of the star of Bethlehem that led the wise men to Jesus! Your kind word, your pleasant attitude toward a worrisome person, your patience with the nurse, your forgiveness when your friend is rude to you, your love that loves when there is reason to strike out and complain - THAT IS THE LIGHT THAT LEADS OTHERS TO CHRIST!

"that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven!"

Are you God's child? Do you know Jesus Christ? Do you call heaven your eternal home? Yes? Well your Lord and Savior has asked you to do a simple thing - be as kind and patient with others as He is with you!

Listen to your thoughts about others. Listen to the way you think about someone when they are unpleasant or mean to you. Listen and call on Jesus Christ to help you change the way you think!

Here are the practical marching orders (given to us by the Holy Spirit through General Paul the Apostle) for the stars of Christ in the here and now:

(Philippians 4:4-9 NLT)

4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again – rejoice!

5 Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.

6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and

honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

9 Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me – everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Be a shining star for Christ! Not just in word, but in deed!

Closing Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain p. 12

Prayer Requests and Corporate Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Recessional

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