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Birthday of Christ

Louis T. Talbot

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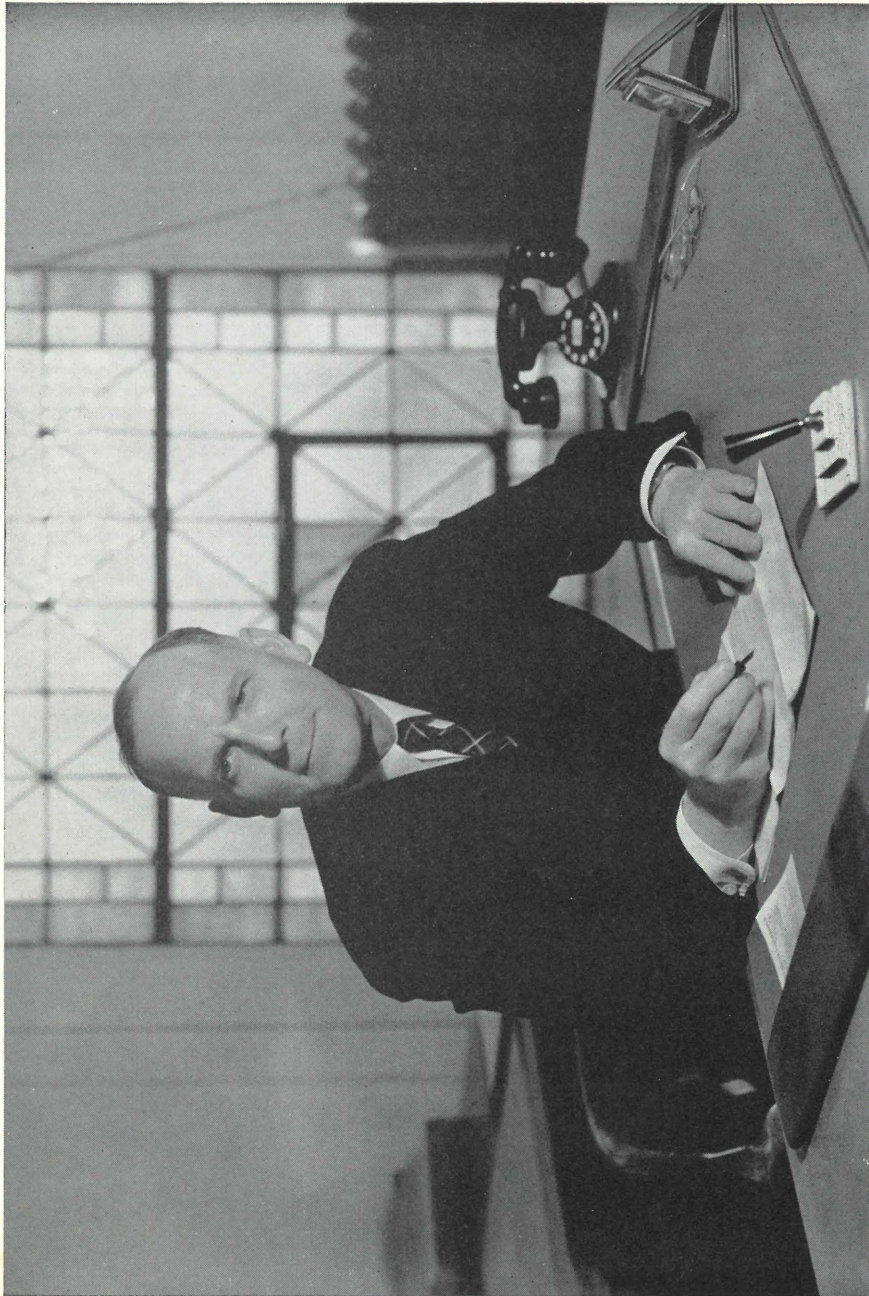
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The Birthday of Christ



Louis T. Talbot



YOUR RADIO PASTOR, LOUIS T. TALBOT

With Best Wishes

for

A Holy and Happy Christmas

from

Dr. and Mrs. Louis T. Talbot

Church of the Open Door
558 South Hope Street
Los Angeles, California

My dear Friend:

Your constant support of my radio ministry is a great source of encouragement to my heart. As you know, it takes something like \$1,400 monthly to keep me on the air. Without the prayers and gifts of thousands of listeners it would be impossible for me to continue broadcasting. May God bless and reward them all!

Well, Christmas is at hand, and I want you to know that I have been thinking of you. My prayer for you at this happy season is that the Christ who made Christmas possible, will be very near you and enrich you with His grace. Scattering our gifts among the friends we love, let us not forget something for Jesus.

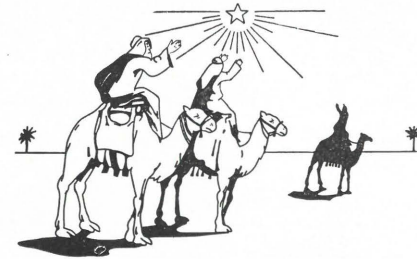
This is a little token of my deep appreciation for your kind gifts through this year. The Lord bless its message to your heart.

Might I ask for your continued interest in the unique radio work the Lord has given me to do? If you find our morning messages helpful, will you try to influence others to listen in?

Best wishes for 1941.

Yours in our soon coming Lord,

LOUIS T. TALBOT



The Birthday of Christ

By LOUIS T. TALBOT

At this time of the year, when men's thoughts turn to the coming into the world of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is well for those who know and love Him to recall clearly just why our Saviour came to earth. What is the true significance of His birthday we celebrate at this season of the year? We know, of course, that He lived before He was born: that by His birth we mean the beginning of His appearance in human form.

Hundreds of years before the Incarnation, the Holy Spirit drew portraits of the coming Messiah, the Christ of God. And these inspired word pictures, preserved for us in the Word of God, emphasize the purpose of Christ's birth according to the flesh. There are at least three truths wrapped up in the glorious truth of our Lord's incarnation.

Christ Came to Reveal God

"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (John 1:18). In Old Testament days, men knew something of God. The psalmist speaks of the heavens as declaring the glory of God and of the firmament as showing His handiwork. But there is more to be known of God than can be grasped through this revelation in nature. And Jesus, as He walked among men, brought that fuller understanding. He said, in effect: "I am God uncovered; I am God unveiled." If one would know who God is, and understand something of His nature and work, he must study the four Gospels, for therein is Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, revealed as Immanuel, "God with us."

In the days of His flesh, Jesus could point to Himself and say, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." If we want to know what God is like all that we have to do is to study the words, works, and ways of His Son.

Let this truth, then, be uppermost in our minds at the Christmas season, namely, that Christ came as the culmination of the revelation of the Father. The very word *incarnation* means to embody in flesh. Christ, then, by His birth became God manifest in the flesh. And it will not be forgotten that Jesus not only revealed and reflected God—He was God.

Christ Came to Redeem Man

He came to do a work of atonement, by means of which men alienated from God because of their sins, might live forever in His holy presence. To make possible this blessed relationship, Christ, the Sinless One, came into the world to die. He could say, as no man could ever say, "I lay down my life. . . . No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself" (John 10:17, 18). Nevertheless, "The wages of sin is death," and those wages must be paid. Justice must be satisfied. Penalties must be met. No mortal man could meet the requirements of divine law, but the Lord Jesus Christ, God incarnate, became the sinner's Substitute, and on the cross of Calvary the sin of the world was rolled upon Him. Since that day, God's message to sinners has been to believe on Jesus, who died for their justification.

Strange though it may seem, nevertheless the truth remains, Jesus was born to die. He turned aside from the ivory palaces, not that He might become an Example for us to follow, but to die as the Sinless Substitute for Sinners. C. H. Spurgeon, that prince of preachers, declared that his theology could be expressed in four words: "Christ died for sin." Jesus, then, clothed Himself with our humanity that He might take upon Himself the load and curse of our sin. Let it not be forgotten that He was born a Saviour, and

that Mary herself recognized the stupendous truth when she sang, "My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."

The question for you to answer, my friend, is clearly evident. Is this Saviour, who entered into our world over 1900 years ago, your *personal* Saviour? Although He came as the Saviour of the world, such a fact will not avail on your behalf, unless He is your very own Saviour. He came to save from sin. Has He saved you? Born in Bethlehem's manger, has He been born within your heart?



Christ Came to Renew Fellowship

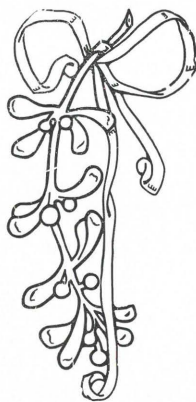
Our Lord's incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection form a triad of truth our minds never tire of meditating upon. We have already indicated the vital association between Christ's birth and death. Let us now think of the union existing between His birth and resurrection. In the *virgin womb* of Mary, the human body of Jesus was fashioned. In the *virgin tomb* of Joseph, the glorified body of Jesus was prepared. And the Holy Spirit was responsible for both miracles. By His broken body, Christ made possible our salvation. But had His body remained within the grave, we would have been of all men most miserable. The truth of the gospel, however, is that although delivered for our offences, He was raised again for our justification. As some of the early fathers were wont to explain it, the resurrection was God's Receipt for Calvary. And how true this is! Hallelujah, the debt has been paid!

Further, Christ's own resurrection was not only the evidence that the demands of God's holy law had been fully met, and that, if he be in Christ, the sinner is justified; but that resurrection is also a pledge that one day believers shall be raised from the dead or changed "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye," their bodies made like unto His glorious body, their natures capable of fellowship with God throughout eternity.

My friend, have you this hope? Do you believe

that the Christ whose birthday we recognize at Christmas, and who died and rose again, is to return before long? Some of us believe that His coming is at hand. This may be our last Christmas. Who knows? Are you ready? If not, then why not fill the heart of Jesus with joy this Christmastide, by surrendering yourself unreservedly to Him? Give Him a Happy Christmas. Receive Him as your Saviour, and then at His coming He will receive you unto Himself.

May God's richest blessing rest upon you and yours at this memorable season of the year!



Remember to Listen In!
Hear My Radio Programs

K M T R
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday, Saturday
11:00 to 11:30 a.m.

K F A C
Sunday
11:00 to 12:30 a.m.; 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Urge All Your Friends to Listen

Christmas Gifts

"Thou hast received gifts for men."

PSALM 68:18

*Christmas gifts for thee,
Fair and free!
Precious things from the heavenly store,
Filling thy casket more and more;
Golden love in divinest chain,
That never can be untwined again;
Silvery carols of joy that swell
Sweetest of all in the heart's lone cell;
Pearls of peace that were sought for thee
In the terrible depths of a fiery sea;
Diamond promises sparkling bright,
Flashing in farthest reaching light.*

*Christmas gifts for thee,
Grand and free!
Christmas gifts from the King of love,
Brought from His royal home above;
Brought to thee in the far-off land,
Brought to thee by His own dear hand.
Promises held by Christ for thee,
Peace as a river flowing free,
Joy that in His own joy must live,
And that Infinite love can give.
Surely thy heart of hearts uplifts
Carols of praise for such Christmas gifts!*

—FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

