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MISSIONARY REVIVALIST SELECTIONS

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SPIRITUAL DISTINCTIONS

By Elbert Dodd

Scripture: Hebrews 5:14, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Paul uses many things to teach spiritual truths. As all Christians know, babes in Christ, at least some cannot stand strong meat, while others who are older in the way and stronger can stand strong meat. And as we grow older in the faith, we should be able to discern easier between good and evil, between that which is essential and nonessential. First of all, we must be able to distinguish between temptation and sin. The scriptures tell us "He that is born of God doth not commit sin." But we are human., with all of our sensibilities and senses and with all of our appetites after we are saved and sanctified. In James 1:14-15 we read: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, (the word "lust" here means "desire") and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

Now we have our physical appetites and desires, but we must join our will with our desire before it will produce. For us to desire an apple is legitimate. When we see that apple, we would love to have it, and the devil might suggest that we pick it up without paying for it. But as long as the will is saying, "No, I would not touch it for anything unless I pay the merchant for it," then it is not sin. It is the way we obtain a thing. Many things are legitimate if they are obtained in the right way, but if they are not obtained in a right way, they become sin. Therefore, we must be on our guard continually, but we must be able to distinguish between a suggestion from the devil -- temptation -- and giving in to the temptation and willfully and maliciously sinning against the Lord.

The devil approached Jesus and suggested to Him that he make the stones bread and also suggested that He cast Himself down. Jesus could not keep the devil from making the suggestions,

but He did not give in to the temptations and suggestions of the devil. Read the fourth chapter of Matthew and you will see how the devil tried Jesus. As long as we say, "No!" regardless of the suggestion or temptation that might be presented to us, it is not sin.

Again, we must distinguish between self-will, the old man of sin, carnality. This is something that we inherit and will stay with us until we are sanctified. But "self-will" and "selfhood" (or self personality) are two different things. We must die out to self-will and have the old man of sin crucified by the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire which sanctifies wholly. That is essential. Old self must die. But selfhood or self personality will be left with us as long as we live in this world. Self-will must die, but not selfhood or self personality. It will live on. We cannot sanctify ourselves.

Mortification of the flesh -- destruction of the flesh -- will not sanctify us. We are sanctified by faith in God through the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. So, we must be able to distinguish between self-will and self personality. Unless you are able to distinguish between self-will and your personal self, you will always be in confusion and in spiritual muddlement. You will be always groaning and trying to get rid of self personality, -- but if we can distinguish between these -- the death to self-will, then we can keep our personal self on the altar and go on rejoicing and happy in the Lord.

Third, we must be able to tell the difference between wandering thoughts and deliberate and voluntary thinking of the mind. Jesus said out of the heart proceedeth evil thoughts, and murders, adulterers, etc. And Paul said, "Think on these things" -love and the good things of life. When one's thoughts begin to wander, he must learn to control them. Paul said, "I die daily" -- or continually. He meant by that, that he kept his thoughts under control. Until we are developed spiritually enough that we can tell the difference between wandering thoughts and the deliberate and voluntary thinking of the mind, we will be in confusion. If we will look to God, He will show us the way out. So keep pressing on!

The fourth distinction is that we must be able to distinguish between individual conscience -which may be caused by the way we were raised or taught, and matters well defined by God's Word. We call this "essentials" and "non-essentials." We have individual conscience on some things that may not be clear in the Bible or taught in the scripture. Good Christian people will have different ideas about some things that are not essential. They will all agree on the fundamentals of the Bible, such as the true doctrine of regeneration, sanctification, holy living, observing of the Christian Sabbath, and many of these things that are clearly taught in the scriptures. But on the other side, they will have some conscientious scruples that are their own personal ones, which they will not try to get other people to line up to, but will walk humbly before God. We must be able to distinguish between that which is essential and that which is non-essential. The things that are taught plainly in the Bible are essential. The things that are not plainly taught in the Bible are non-essentials. The devil will do everything he can to get us to feel like the essential things are non-essential. But when God's Word is plain on a thing, then we as grown up Christians can distinguish between the essential and non-essential, between the individual conscience and the things that are taught in God's Word. If we fail to do this, we become in bondage, become slaves and unhappy Christians. But if we can distinguish some of these things, we can be happy in the Lord and serve Him with boldness and without fear.

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EDITORIAL

By Spencer Johnson

THE SYMMETRY OF HOLINESS

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17)

There is a symmetry or well-rounded aspect to the experience of holiness of heart. One may have a holy heart and be warped in his thinking but the man who counts the most for God in the work of His kingdom is the person who abounds in every virtue of the holy life.

Some well-meaning souls fall into the error of ignorance and fanaticism and advance some single Christian virtue or spiritual excellence at the expense of other moral qualities and attributes. Starting out never to compromise which is right, they become intolerant, which is wrong. Seeking to become sacrificial and unselfish they become ascetics. Passing from lightness and frivolity they plunge into Egyptian darkness and gloom of spirit and pain of countenance. Avoiding popery and ecclesiasticism in the churches they themselves become dictators. Starting out on the unpleasant task of reprovers and disciplinarians they wind up as habitual fault finders and professional scolds. Such people seem to be ignorant of the beauty and power of a well rounded experience of holiness. They are all law and no grace, They forget that grace and truth must go hand in hand. Bare truth without grace can be cruel indeed. Such people abound in machine guns, grenades, and flame throwers but do not possess a single first aid kit in their whole army, They have never Observed that the courageous brave man in the ship wreck after the terrible storm at sea was the same man who wrote the love chapter in Corinthians. They fail to see that the blessed Christ possessed in the same human form all the graces and virtues plus an absolute fearless heart. He was both grace and truth. He was as sweet as honey and firm in principle as a rock. It seems that some people get their eyes on grace, and some on truth and thereupon follow after their choice to the complete forgetfulness and exclusion of the other. Such extremes defeat the plan of God and bring havoc to the advancement of the Cause of holiness upon earth.

Some make holiness all law. It is a sad fact that some who profess holiness do not have a trace of love and grace in their entire composition. They are entirely in the rock business. Every time we meet them they are throwing rocks at someone. Each time we hear from them they are hurling missiles and swinging clubs. Every time they use pen and ink, or speak in pulpit or on platform, it is to stab, cut, skin, knock down, drag out, and generally attack everything and everybody in sight, and especially all who do not agree and follow with them. David had five smooth stones, they carry millions of rough ones. "Shimei throwing rocks at the king of Israel is their pattern Saint, and a raging volcano their mount of worship." Who has not met this kind of people? They seem to believe that they would compromise if they were kind, gentle and loving. They evidently think they can knock conviction into sinners by personal abuse and win them to God and duty by whip lash methods.

On the other hand there are people who seem to think that holiness is all love to the exclusion of law and truth. Applying their misconceptions of holiness and perfect love to life they would have everybody who professes the blessing to live in a candied sugar state and have nothing but positive thinking in their poor deluded minds. According to the idea of this class, everything is all right. They believe in approving, salving, smoothing out, and swallowing down everything that is taught in the name of religion regardless of how false the doctrine or dangerous and misleading the error. Perfect love, with them, is to smile, and gush and acquiesce to every teacher and teaching whether they are from California, Boston, Kansas City, or hell itself. They believe it is a complete violation of the law of ethics to condemn anything or anybody, no matter how worldly, dangerous and false they may be. With them all doctrines are right whether they are from India, Africa, Utah, or the National Council. They can have perfect fellowship with the crowd that belittles the Holy Spirit, undeifies the Son of God and doubts the inspiration of the scriptures. Therefore, from Unitarianism to Spiritualism, all are to be looked on with tender approval by this wretched counterfeit of perfect love!

Recently we read about a certain religious occasion when a number of professed Christian ministers, Jewish Rabbis, and Hindu priests, all had a meeting and shared the platform and had "fellowship" together. The newspaper lauded them and the occurrence as "A spirit of Christian fraternity." But we felt it a spectacle of Christian disloyalty. "What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" (II Cor. 6:14-15)

"And this very moral fraud, this indiscriminate distribution of attention and favor, reminding one of a harlot, is horribly miscalled love! Instead of faithfulness to God it is unfaithfulness; instead of perfect love taught by the Word of God it is perfect cowardice; and wholesale compromise and habitual surrender of truth." To see professed holiness churches associating themselves with the godless National and World Council of Churches makes one wonder if God's message to a certain compromising King who had joined affinity with the foes of God would not be appropriate now: "Do you love them that hate me?"

There is a love which Christ had for the vilest of sinners; and He commands us to be like Him in this respect; but this love is not one of approval and companionship.

True holiness consists of the symmetry of both grace and truth. The combination of the two is God's command for His children through the ages. Will we obey? To do God's work effectively we must be filled with love; but at the same time that very spirit of tenderness must be joined with the fixed principles of righteousness. Love must be combined with truth. On the other hand, when we rebuke sin and oppose and denounce wrong, the arrow of denunciation should, be accompanied by love and pity until the recipient of the rebuke should feel that near at hand is forgiveness and mercy if only the route of true penitence is taken.

The blessed Jesus possessed the combination in its perfection. He was full of grace and truth. Who ever loved like Jesus? And yet who could administer rebuke equal to Him? But even while He condemned and doomed He wept with tears of compassion.

Paul the Apostle possessed this symmetry. His letters are examples of tenderness yet he withstood Peter to his face and rebuked error and false doctrine wherever he found them. May God grant us all this beautiful symmetry of holiness. Not all law and not all mercy. Truth and grace, and law mingled with mercy. There are few human hearts that can remain closed to the gospel when approached by this rare and powerful combination.

"Then go out thro' the streets and by-ways;
Preach the Word to the many or few;
Say to every fallen brother,
There's honey in the Rock for you."

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THE DAYSPRING FROM ON HIGH HATH VISITED US

Luke 1:78

By H. A. Erdmann

It is a thrilling experience to see the sunrise from the top of a mountain. The long, winding climb, toiling up through the darkness, is not so inviting, but the glory of the sunrise pays for it all. As you wait in the chill of the early morning darkness, almost imperceptibly a purple fan slowly emerges from the eastern horizon and spreads itself in ever expanding arcs. Its center slowly turns to crimson, throwing out great crimson and then golden sprays that blend the mountains with the sky above, till all seems one molten mass of living, changing color. Long pencils of light shoot out, slowly growing longer and more numerous until suddenly the sun, like a great ball of fire, bursts into view and floods the world with brilliant glory.

This world had been plunged into awful darkness by man's sin, but almost immediately the first dim promise of the Dayspring appeared above the horizon.

The first faint hint of the coming dawn came to Eve in the promise: "Thy seed shall bruise the serpent's head." It was only the faint dim purple fan that she saw, but it became brighter and clearer in the promise to Abraham: "in thee and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

The signs of coming dawn were ever more clearly seen. Jacob looked and beheld the specific tribe from which the Dayspring was to arise as he was pronouncing his final blessing upon his sons just before his death. The light had become sufficiently bright for him to declare: "the sceptre shall not depart out of Judah, nor a Lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh come: and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

To Baalam, strangely vacillating and inconsistent though he was, there came this flash of illumination: "there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel and shall smite the corners of Moab."

Isaiah beheld the light still brighter and the Messianic line was limited to David. As he looked toward the dawning he saw: "there shall come forth a Rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots, to sit upon the throne of his father David forever."

As the radiance of the coming dawn became brighter, Micah saw, by prophetic vision, the natal city, and declared: "thou Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be Ruler in Israel."

Isaiah looked again and saw Him born of a virgin. "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Emmanuel."

The light shone ever brighter. David looked and saw the Wise Men bringing treasures and declared: "Behold, the kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents; the kings of Seba and Sheba shall offer gifts."

Daniel looked and to him was given to see the very year in which the Dayspring was to arise. He declared: "Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem till the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks and three score and two weeks," Daniel variously used a day for a year. Sixty nine weeks equals 483 days, which, in Daniel's language, means 483 yrs. From the issuing of the command, by Cyrus, to rebuild Jerusalem to the birth of Christ was 483 years.

Simon saw the light becoming quite bright, and he knew it was only a short time until "The Dayspring from on high" would appear above the world's horizon. He was a just and devout man waiting for the Consolation of Israel. To him it was revealed, by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death until he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Shepherds watching their flocks on the Judean hills received the final burst of glory as the "Dayspring from on High" appeared above the horizon. They "were sore afraid, but the angel said unto them, fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, Which shall be to all people. For unto you is born, this day, in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord."

There was a two-fold purpose for the appearing of the Dayspring. FIRST: To reveal God. "No man hath seen God at any time." The human family did not know God as He is. He was thought to be a sort of arbitrary ruler instead of a God of love and tender compassion. Logic may produce God as an inevitable surmise. Reason may give Him form from looking at His handiwork, but this is all very vague and unsatisfactory.

Jesus came to reveal God. "The Only begotten Son, he hath declared him." "The word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

Because Christ is God I know that God is interested in me, because Christ was interested in every member of Adam's race. He came all the way from heavenly glory, down to an ox-stall, in order that I might get acquainted with Him.

Because Christ is God I know that God loves me. Christ loved with a deep and tender love."

Second: The Dayspring is the Dawn of hope for sinful men. "Unto you that look for him shall the Son of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings." "Thou shalt call His name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins." "I am come that they may have life, and that they might: have it more abundantly."

This new day for sinful men not only involves pardon for the guilty, but it includes cleansing for the unsanctified. "If we walk in the light as he is in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son cleanseth us from all sin." "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate."

Consider, dear soul: has Christmas really and truly dawned for you? Has the Son of Righteousness risen in your heart?"

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DECEPTION

II Thessalonians Chapter Two

By E. B. Meek

To be deceived in temporal things is sad indeed, but to be deceived in spiritual things is a needless calamity. The writer was one time deceived in buying a car. I have often since thought that the dealer saw me coming. It looked real nice, it even sounded good, the paint was sleek and shiny, so I bought it. But also a few days testing showed up the deception. The dealer had sold me a car with a flat shaft -- "an internal trouble." So it is in the spiritual life, sometimes a few of life's tests shows up the deception. They thought they were sanctified, but when the test came, they found out they had been in a state of deception. This brings us directly to our subject. I would like for us to notice at least four things concerning deception. The first is

I. The Causes of Deception

1. Riches: The Bible speaks of the deceitfulness of riches. We are therefore to assume that one could be so taken up in his possessions as to be deceived. He could lean on them for all his security, yea and trust in them as the answer to all his needs and in thus doing be deceived into trusting in them and leaving Christ out of his life. Multitudes are in this condition.

2. The Heart: In Jeremiah 17:9 we read "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it"? So we see by this that unless our "heart is wholly given unto the Lord" we stand in danger of letting it deceive us in things concerning the salvation of our soul.

3. Man: Then again the Bible says, "let no man deceive you." We must therefore watch and be very careful that we do not support those whom we do not know with either our presence or our

money. I know some people who will come out to the church services and amen the preacher and compliment his stand for truth, also admit that his message is from the Lord. Then turn around and support some radio preacher whom they have never met or know with their "tithes and offerings." And these hireling preachers are only filling their pockets with your tithes and they never preach along the "old lines of Bible truths" at all, thus you should not let men deceive you.

4. The Devil: The Bible teaches us that the devil is the arch deceiver, this has ever been his cunning device. He is about that business right now, trying to deceive someone into thinking they can get to heaven with a carnal heart. Or telling them through some hireling preacher that they can not keep from sinning on this side of eternity. O how the devil works to turn many aside unto vain jangling. He is ever trying to deceive someone and turn them away from the faith once delivered unto the saints.

5. God: Yes, God will deceive a man. This is a most shocking statement, yet it is also the truth. The Bible says, when men go so far in their willful pursuit of loving unrighteousness and do not receive the truth, and they are willingly running after pleasures that are of the world, then God will send "strong delusion" unto them, that they might believe a lie and be damned, and it is all because they loved not the truth, and had pleasures in unrighteousness. O that man would lay this most awful truth to heart, and not be deceived by the Almighty God.

II. The Condition of Those Who Are in Deception

1. They receive not the truth: This is perhaps the first noticeable step in the direction of deception. They shut their eyes and their ears to receiving the truth. The seed of His Word is planted on hard soil, it does not find its way into "fertile soil." They will not receive it, but cast it aside and then also they do not give it time to germinate but simply forget what was told to them.

2. They love not the truths: Truth unless received and loved tends to offend and harden the heart. When the pure, pungent word of God is not received and not loved it only leaves the heart wide open to receive some sort of deception. Furthermore most all will console their conscience with some kind of false hope as to the salvation of their souls.

3. They find pleasures in unrighteousness: This sort of deception lets the mind think that it is all right to attend the ball games, the fair ("which isn't so fair"), the bowling alleys, the skating rinks, go to the circus, the parades of worldlings, they can also watch the home picture show with no seeming alarm. If the preacher does say anything against these evils, they push it aside with "that is just one man's opinion." Remember my friends, your loving the pleasures of unrighteousness is a positive sign that you are deceived, in a sad way indeed.

4. They do not make spiritual progress: These are like the sea they only churn up and down, they go around in circles, never making progress. Their testimony genders unto death, and not unto life. They are in the same place this year as they were last year. Their besetting sin will not let them get out of their circle. They go around and around just as the children of Israel did in the wilderness. The Bible says "grow in grace" but these never do. They are stagnant in their souls. Live things grow and inactive things will die.

5. They are inconsistent: It rarely fails, somewhere in their life, on the job, or in the home they will manifest these inconsistencies. They will leave off the paint, but cut their hair, or they will wear just a little paint and put on their little "wedding band." These inconsistencies only tell of trouble within. For they are being deceived by their carnal heart.

III. The Consequences of Deception

1. They are believing a lie: This is indeed a sad place when the human heart has believed a lie as the truth. They think they are all right and getting along fine with God, but the truth is they are far from Him. Multitudes are believing a lie for the truth today.

2. They are making a false profession: Many will declare with apparent boldness, "I am not condemned for what I am doing." A preacher once told the writer that when the Lord told him that it was wrong for him to smoke then he would quit. Well now dear ones, the Lord never told him it was "all right for him to smoke in the first place." So these people who are in a state of deception can seemingly do nearly anything and still testify to being saved and sanctified without any seeming alarm. Remember a deceived false profession is just as convincing as a right profession to the one professing, if God has sent the strong delusion.

3. Their end is to be damned: If they continue on in this state of deception, their only end is to be burned in the everlasting fire of hell. They will soon reach that place where their mind is given over unto being a "reprobate mind" whose end is to be burned.

IV. The Cure for Deception

1. Honesty: The first step out of deception is beginning to be honest with God and yourself. We must have rock ribbed fidelity if we are even to get any place with the Lord.

2. Open and frank confession: He that covereth his sin shall not prosper, but whosoever will confess and forsake them shall find mercy. One must admit that he has been following the route of the deceived. O let the Lord know that you are returning to the Shepherd of your soul.

3. Break with the devil's ways and crowds: Stop loving the unrighteousness, and finding pleasures in them. Start going God's ways. Leave off all worldly things which grieve the Holy Ghost.

4. Begin to love truth and walk in the light: Yes, return to loving the truth and to receiving the truth. If you will walk in "all" the light the fellowship will soon return. "Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you." Return to all the former light you had. Begin again to read-God's word, and spend time in the closet of prayer, believe the promises which God has written for us to lean upon. O yes, friend there is a way out of deception. God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to the knowledge of the truth that they might be saved. Friend, God wills that you should get rid of that old nature of deception, the thing that is always besetting our souls and which drown men in perdition. So come to Him now while there is time and get back on the road of "holiness" and go all the way through with God.

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CHRISTMAS

Sons of men, behold from far,
Hail the long-expected star!
Jacob's star that gilds the night,
Guides bewildered nature right.
Nations all, far off and near,
Haste to see your God appear!
Haste, for Him your hearts prepare,
Meet Him manifested there.
Here behold the Dayspring rise,
Pouring eyesight on your eyes;
God in His own light survey,
Shining to the perfect day.

-- Charles Wesley

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CHILDREN'S PAGE

By Mrs. Paul King,
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THE GUIDING STAR

Samuel and David huddled closely together, then pulling their loose flowing robes more tightly about their slender bodies they settled down for the night's vigil over their father's sheep, their shepherd's staff dose by their side.

The night was crisp and cool; every now and then a brisk east wind raced by, whipping at their robes and making the long naked branches of the trees to tremble violently. The night had a thousand eyes, watching and shimmering at them from above, and was filled with sad, lonesome, and strange sounds. The sheep were restless, and, though bedded down for the night had difficulty in peacefully settling as in other nights. The lad's keen sensibilities noted all this, and, unconsciously they became immediately alert, sitting erect and straining their hearing for any sound of imminent danger.

Far, far to their right they heard the mournful call of a lone Coyote. A chuckle escaped Samuel's young lips for he realized what cowards they were.

As the young shepherds began their second attempt at settling down a mournful cry was wafted by the wind to their listening ears. For a long while neither moved or spoke -- too intent upon listening and trying to distinguish the sound they had just heard. After a long while David, though trying to be brave, spoke with trembling voice:

"It... kinda' . . . sounded . . . like . . . the hungry wolf . pack." And a shiver raced up and down his spine like electric shocks.

"No David," the older brother said thoughtfully, "It's not a wolf pack, else the sheep would be in real confusion and turmoil; but I don't know what it was." And he settled back to serious thought.

"Maybe... maybe.., a hyena, or . . . or . . . a panther," the young lad said, edging more closely to his brother's side.

"Now, now David," Samuel said tenderly, "Have no fear. Too long I've cared for, and lived with, father's sheep I understand their every move and reaction. 'Tis true, something strange is making them restless, but have no fear of wolves, panthers and hyenas: three times our God helped me to slay those wild beasts with this very shepherd's staff, and He'll help us tonight if needs be. Remember what father told us to do when fears possessed us?"

"Yes, Samuel," the young lad said, trustingly looking upward.

"Shall we quote it together then?" Samuel asked.

"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee," both lads quoted from David's 56th Psalm.

"Now, shall we trust Him?" Samuel challenged. "I learned so many valuable lessons by just being alone with God and father's sheep, David. I'm most eager that you learn too. If you'll trust the Lord Jehovah now, in this, He'll put you to a larger test of confidence and trust some day. The Lord, under Whose wings we have come to abide, will defend and deliver us."

"Oh Samuel! I do want to be like you -- so strong, chivalrous and brave, and . . . and . . . so much like Jesus," David said.

"Not like I am brother," Samuel said tenderly, "But like Jesus! Strive hard to be like He is; not a brother of flesh and blood like yourself." And he lovingly patted the shoulder of his young brother.

For a long time the two sat, watching the stars as they twinkled and shimmered in the vast expanse of heaven and listening to the soft breathing of the sheep. A good, warm feeling overwhelmed their being as each realized that he was a part of God's great universe. A shooting star plummeted earthward in fiery brilliance then burned out as quickly as it had appeared. The lone coyote continued his baying at the moon and was answered by a second, far, far away.

Samuel suddenly sat upright, resting his shepherd's staff over his knee when again the faint cry was heard: this time more clearly and more distinctly.

"It's a lamb, David! That's what it is!" and the faithful youth was on his feet, straining to hear from whence came the sound.

"But Samuel," the younger lad said thoughtfully, "We counted father's sheep and you said they were all here."

"I know David! I know! 'Tis none of father's sheep, but it it... could ... be Uncle Nathan's."

"But Samuel," David continued slowly, "He . . . hates Father . . . since he . . . became a Christian ... and..., got saved. He's angry at all of us for . . . turning from our faith to the Christian's religion."

"'Tis true David! Everything you say is true; but we cannot, we must not, take this attitude and let that helpless little creature be rent and torn by the wild beasts. You remain here by the flock while I go in search of the lost creature."

"I'm . . . I'm... just a wee bit scared, I guess; but I'll stay," David said bravely. "You'll not be long, I hope."

"Be brave, my brother," Samuel encouraged. "'Tis the times you are alone that you grow as a giant for God. Surely He will care for you as He has for me."

Suddenly David exclaimed, "Samuel, Samuel, look! Yonder Star! How bright it is! See! and it is moving!"

"God be praised!" Samuel began as he clapped his hands for joy. "'Tis like the star the wise men saw which led them to the Christ child."

"Go Samuel," David urged. "God will take care of me. He has sent His star to us for a purpose. I'm no longer afraid; I sense an Unseen Presence with me."

"Fine lad," Samuel said, patting his brother's slender shoulder, then disappearing into the night.

For a long time Samuel walked, stopping every now and then to listen for the soft bleating. He heard its faint cry getting louder and louder then, coming into dense growth of thicket he plunged recklessly into the brush. The thorns and briars tore at his robe and shredded it, still he continued until, at his feet he heard the pitiful cry. He stooped low and gathered the bleeding creature into his strong arms then carefully, lovingly, carried it out of the thicket and briar patch.

Keeping his eyes upon the star he journeyed on until he came to a creek bed and, by the soft, muffled breathing he knew he had been led to Uncle Nathan's flock of sheep. Should he search for the elderly man or just place the lamb in the flock and be on his way, he wondered, when, like a bolt of lightning, something hit him, striking him on the shoulder. He fell to the ground and the star shone in such brilliance until Samuel's young face was illuminated by its glow. Then, seeing it was his brother's son, Nathan began speaking, harshly at first, but melting more and more under the illuminated face before him.

"Samuel! What brings you here?" he asked crossly. Then, seeing the bleeding lamb cradled softly in Samuel's good strong arm he said brokenly,:

"Forgive me son! Forgive me! 'Tis my own lost lamb you've brought and I have so ill treated you."

"'Tis quite all right Uncle Nathan," Samuel began. "Look! Just look at the Star! 'Tis the same star as led the wise men to the stable where the Lord Jesus Christ was born. See it? It has guided me to you tonight. Can't you believe and accept this, Uncle Nathan? Father loves you and has not ceased praying for you since he got converted and became a Christian."

The old man, with head bowed and tears flowing, said never a word as Samuel continued.

"He is a different man, Uncle Nathan. Even you must admit that; for what the law couldn't do for father grace did. He no longer lies and he made full restitution for those two cows he took from you -- he restored you sevenfold. That is more than any of your immediate acquaintance have done. He loves you and... "

"Stop it! Stop it!" the elderly man said, raising his shepherd's staff. "Yes, yes! All the things you say are true. I want what our father has. I must have it! His is such a perpetual peace and joy since he has become a believer and a Christian -- even through adversities and times of extreme testings! But how can I find it? I've been a wicked old man and haven't had anything to do with my brother Jacob, your father, for four years. Yet I've watched him Samuel -- and your mother Lois -- she too has the joy your father has."

"And all their children too," Samuel said reverently. "It's wonderful Uncle Nathan, simply wonderful! To know we have passed from death unto life through Jesus Christ and His precious shed blood! You too may have Him. Confess and forsake all your sins and ask this despised, rejected Christ to save you."

"I want Him, son. More than I want another morsel of food," the old man said brokenly.

"Shall we pray then and tell Him all about it?" Samuel asked. Not until he felt a gentle nuzzle on his arm did Samuel realize he was still cradling the little lamb. Gently he laid it down as the little one's mother lovingly licked and cared for it. Uncle Nathan's shouts filled the heavens with gladness and mirth and the star shone brightly down upon the earth.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," Uncle Nathan shouted to the departing Samuel. "And be sure to tell your father I'll be seeing him soon. I have some restitutions to make," and his loud 'Alleluja' made the meadows ring.

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BETHLEHEM'S BABE
By Mrs. Paul E. King

The heavens were clear, and the stars twinkled bright
On Judean hillsides, one beautiful night.
The earth was Peaceful, and quiet and still
And the shepherds lay resting on the side of the hill;

When the Word was proclaimed by an Angel from Heaven
That unto the world a Saviour was given;
An Infant they'd find if they followed the star
To a humble manger, whose doors were ajar.

The sweet little Babe who came this glad day
And pillowed His head on the sweet smelling hay,
Had a path down life's road of sorrow and loss,
With a thorn crowned brow, and an old rugged cross;

Yet He flinched not one moment, in view of it all,
But paid our great debt, and drank bitter gall.
In honor of Him, on this day of all days,
My voice shall be heard in sweet carols of praise.

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THE END