

# Christ is Victor

November/ December 2018

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## “Jesus Christ is Given”

“A Son is given” (Isaiah 9:6, 7).

A Son is given who will bear the government on His shoulder. His name is Wonderful, Counsellor. He is the Everlasting Father. He is the Prince of Peace. Thus the prophet goes on progressively. Truth and grace blend perfectly in Him. Grace makes truth bearable. Some men who are truthful are very hard. But our God is full of truth and grace. John 1:14: “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” He is going to bear the burden of the whole universe. He is going to bear the responsibility for the sin of all mankind. He is going to take on Himself the punishment of sin, and thus free man for the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. Sin is the sickness that prevents man from enjoying the higher life in Jesus Christ. The cross is going to release us from our sin and from our sinful nature.

Jesus, who bears our sin and prepares us for the school of the Holy Spirit, is the burden-bearer of the whole world. When we utter the name of Jesus, the gates of hell will not prevail against us. Every prayer in this Name will reach God. It is the “Open Sesame” to the treasures of heaven when it is uttered with a pure heart and a clean conscience. Treasures of counsel from the store of the wisdom of God are opened to us. He is a counsellor.

2 Chron. 9:23: “And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart.” All the kings of the earth came to

him who was taught of God. 2 Chron. 9:3,4: “And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built, and the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel; his cup-bearers also and their apparel; and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the Lord; there was no more spirit in her.” She had nothing more to say. She could only wonder at his wisdom.

Jesus is a wonderful counsellor who counsels you and me. “A greater than Solomon is He.” Jesus is the perfect counsellor who can never mislead you. Blessed are those who seek His counsel every day. Pr. 8:34: “Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates.” Grace and truth have kissed each other in Him. The great and mighty God whose voice caused the Israelites to quake with terror is now appearing in the form of grace and truth. There is never an error in His counsel. His voice does not strike terror in anyone. He is full of love. Jesus changes your heart and fills you with love. His government will increase. Nothing can stop it. Will you be a member of that government? If so, you will also increase. Will you be a part of that kingdom that spreads His light and love? Will you work for that kingdom? Then you will not be just a creature of time. You will be an eternal being. God will reveal Himself to you in Jesus. They that do know their God will be strong and do great exploits. Daniel 11:32: “And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits.” You will do mighty things because your strength is not yours but the Almighty’s. You will be meek and humble and gentle and yet almighty. This is divine nature. You will share all His qualities including His almightiness.

—N. Daniel

## “Fear Not, for Behold, I bring you Good Tidings of Great Joy”

“And 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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2: 10,11).

Fear is the predominant feeling which one meets with everywhere. Fear of tomorrow has become the dominant feature of men’s lives today.

Economists may forecast! Once-thriving nations are deep in recession and the number of the unemployed is climbing everywhere. There is real suffering as well as much “imagined” suffering. There is real want as well as curtailment of some luxuries to some which they simply feel they cannot accept.

The newspaper has little good news. It is a miserable catalogue of calamities, dismal breakdowns, short-fallen crops, failure of harvest and endless political chaos. If a man lays down his newspaper these days without reading about some of the new catastrophes on the horizon, it would be a most welcome thing.

We claim to live in civilized days, but the barbarism of today, the hatred between nations, the long list of massacres, hostages taken, summary executions without adequate trial— all speak of a savage, uncivilized behaviour of which few ages have been guilty on such a large scale.

Man’s inhumanity to man should make us weep or sob. There are millions today who cannot even travel outside their own countries because walls and barricades have been put out, depriving them of that freedom to choose which God has given them.

In the midst of this chaos comes to us these good tidings of the Saviour’s coming into this sinful world. The angel announces

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## ***“Fear Not, for Behold, I bring you Good Tidings of Great Joy”***

the glorious tidings to the shepherds in the middle of the night. “Fear not: ... I bring you good tidings of great joy ...” (Luke 2:10). Yes, Christ brings us great joy.

I recall how heavy my heart was and how miserable I was in my uncleanness and sin. That night when the Lord Jesus met me and rolled away the heavy burden of sin from my heart, what a thrill it was! It seemed like as if I was floating on air. I could not help but sing from sheer happiness. From that day to this, there is a deep undercurrent of joy which gives me new strength from day to day in the midst of my incessant travels, sleepless nights and ever-increasing labours.

The Saviour says, “The joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10). The Lord wants to lift the dark cloud of our sorrows and fill our hearts with joy.

It is amazing that even amongst those who claim to be good Christians one hears endless complaints, unfair criticism and even evil speaking. Instead of good news you can get an earful of bad news if you sit ten or fifteen minutes amongst them. I want to tell you that you have missed the point of Christian deliverance altogether. Why that gloomy outlook? Why those negative fears? Has not the Deliverer come? Or is He in the grave like other prophets? No, our Saviour is an undying, risen Saviour. He lives now making intercession on our behalf.

In many people an active trust in God which the Bible calls “faith” is so badly lacking. They sit with a shroud around them with the live expectation that the skies are going to collapse around them.

Dear reader, you need the Christmas message. You are darkening your horizons, weakening your body and destroying your usefulness by letting lovelessness, impurity and negative fear overwhelm you. The Saviour has come to lift you, to love you, to cause you to rise above the clouds of fear and guilt.

Let the “joy of the Lord” be our strength!

—Joshua Daniel

## ***“Christmas Memories”***

The following Christmas memories are from the life of Corrie Ten Boom (1892-1983), a Christian watchmaker from Holland. (The latter part of this story is from her time in a Nazi concentration camp, where she and her sister Betsie were imprisoned after helping to hide Jews.)

Betsie and I ... worked like a real team and often were the speakers at eight or ten Christmas feasts. In clubs, Sunday schools, hospitals, military groups, and churches—whenever we got a chance.

The Christmas treats were usually the same—Christmas bread with powdered sugar on it and raisins. There was an orange for every child, too. ... Then a cup of hot cocoa. And whenever it was possible, a Christian booklet and a text for the wall with birdies and flowers around a Bible word.

Most of the time we arranged activities in this way: at the first feast Betsie told the Christmas story of Luke 2 and I told a Christmas story. At the second one we did the opposite—Betsie told a story and I the story.

In the watchmaking business it was very busy those Christmas days. I can remember that when we went to the feast, tired after a full day, I would count for myself: “Number four. Five more evenings—and then we are through Christmas!”

I knew that was wrong and I prayed: Lord, give me the miracle that I won’t get tired but enjoy every Christmas feast, even if it is number ten. Should it not mean joy for everyone that You were born in Bethlehem? So Betsie and I must feel joy to be Your channel.

God answered that prayer, and all the years we did it, that miracle happened.

Now I want to tell you about a happy and a sad Christmas in my life. Christmas was a feast in our Beje home. ...

The climax of the feast in the Beje was when we were enjoying Christmas Eve with stories and the singing of carols.

Both Father and Tante Jans made it so clear to us that Christmas was for all of us. For me. Jesus came for me. Jesus was my friend, my Saviour.

It was Christmas, 1944. Betsie had died. I was in a hospital barracks in Ravensbruck. Dark it was in my heart, and darkness was around me.

There were Christmas trees in the street between the barracks. Why, I don’t know. They were the saddest Christmas trees I ever saw in my life. I am sure it was with the purpose of blaspheming that they had thrown dead bodies of prisoners under the Christmas trees.

I tried to talk to the people around me about Christmas, but they mocked, ridiculed, and sneered at whatever I said. At last I was just quiet. It was in the middle of the night that I suddenly heard a child crying and calling, “Mommy! Come to Oelie. Oelie feels so alone.” I went to her and saw a child not so young, but feeble-minded.

“Oelie, Mommy cannot come, but do you know who is willing to come to you? That is Jesus.”

The girl was lying on a bed next to the window, not far from my bed. Although Oelie was completely emaciated from lack of food, she had a sweet face, beautiful eyes, and wavy hair. It was so touching to hear her call for her mother. Oelie had been operated on and the incision on her back was covered by a bandage of toilet paper.

That night I told this poor child about Jesus. How He came into the world as a little baby—how He came to save us from our sins.

“The Lord Jesus loves Oelie and has borne her punishment on the cross. Now Oelie may go to heaven, and Jesus is there right now. He is getting a little house ready for Oelie.” Later I asked her what she remembered of what I had told her.

“What is the little house like?” I asked.

“It is very beautiful. There are no wicked people as in Ravensbruck—only good people and angels. And Oelie will see Jesus there.”

The child added, “I will ask Jesus to make me brave when I have a pain. I will think of the pain that Jesus suffered to show Oelie the way to heaven.” Then Oelie folded her hands; together we gave thanks.

Then I knew why I had to spend this Christmas in Ravensbruck—1944.

—Corrie Ten Boom, *Corrie’s Christmas Memories*

## **Reality Check!**

**“BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT ... THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON  
CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN” (1 JOHN 1:7).**

## “The Christ of Christmas ”

“And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds” (Luke 2:16-18).

These shepherds had to leave their flocks in the middle of the night. It was a sacrifice to leave their flocks to seek Christ. After all, the flocks were their most important possession. The flocks needed to be watched. But these men chose to seek Christ instead. They had a mission.

Today people are fitful and unsettled. They have no mission in life. If you have a mission, if you have a heavenly purpose in life, then it does not matter if you have just one, or two, or three people to help you. You do not need a great congregation to

accomplish a divinely appointed mission. In fact, the larger the congregation, the greater the confusion, quarrelling and division that is often present.

These shepherds had a mission and a midnight hour in which to accomplish it. The shepherds had to get up and move in order to accomplish the divinely appointed task, in order to see Christ.

When the angel had departed, what did the shepherds say? “Let’s wait ‘til morning. We must care for our flocks.” If you take this attitude, then your whole life is going to be characterized by inaction. I have never believed in waiting for tomorrow; I have believed in seizing the opportunity of today. The Bible is full of “today”. Take the matter of conversion. If we put off our conversion, if we put off the obedience that God requires of us, we will waste our entire life. Today is our God-given opportunity! Go to the Cross,

bring your nature to the Cross and say, “Lord, it must be done now!”

When I gave my life to the Lord Jesus, it was entirely given. If sports stood in the way, then sports were put aside. If girls stood in the way, they went. If anything else intruded upon my communion with Jesus, then I immediately excluded them from my life. Nothing could deflect me from my mission. The mission was to be a simple disciple of Jesus—nothing could deflect me.

But Christians today have no sense of urgency. They have no mission in life. They feel they can just linger, dither, procrastinate, and postpone tasks and opportunities until life is wasted and over.

If eternity is important, then we should immediately obey the revelation, which the eternal God gives to us, “Let us go now and see this thing which is come to pass, which

“*THE CHRIST...*”CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## “Picking Apples”

During the first twenty years of our married life we lived in four different houses. They were nice enough places, but not one had much of a garden. So it was a real joy to move into our fifth house, which not only had a nice garden, but also three mature apple trees.

The first autumn saw a magnificent crop of apples and we were determined to save as many as possible. So after they were picked, we wrapped each one separately in newspaper and stacked them on wooden trays in the garage as we wanted to use them during the Christmas season. We looked forward with anticipation to apples all the winter. But by Christmas they were all rotten.

I spoke to a farmer friend about this and he said it was because I had picked them

too soon. I protested that they looked ripe. Yes, he said, but did they come easily? He explained that the right time to pick apples is when they come away from the branch easily into your hand. “If you have to tug, leave them,” he said. “They are not ready for picking and will go rotten.”

That was good advice on picking apples, but it is also good advice on dealing with the souls of men and women. How often in our churches have we been overjoyed to see people make profession of faith, but within a short time it is obvious that they are not saved and soon they stop attending church. This is so dishonouring to God. Also it is a cause of deep disappointment and frustration for us Christians, and it very often makes those who made the profession very hardened against the gospel. They say,

“I was saved—and it does not work.”

It is a very real problem. The modern “invitation system” aggravates it, but even in churches who do not use this system and where more care is taken in dealing with souls, it still happens. Why is this so?

Often, like me with the apples, it is ignorance coupled with enthusiasm. We are so eager to see souls saved that we ignore basic biblical principles. As a consequence of this, we hurry souls to a decision before they are ready. How can we know when the right time has arrived to pick spiritual fruit?

Firstly, we must always remember that a true conversion is not the result of human decision but a work of the Holy Spirit. There are evidences of this divine work. We

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## “The Christ of Christmas ”

the Lord has revealed to us” (verse 15). Did the shepherds doubt the vision of the angels, saying: “Weren’t we dreaming?” No. They believed God and acted accordingly. The Bible teaches us that “Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” he acted on his belief. When God told Abraham something, he acted in faith.

So the shepherds acted in faith. Please remember that obedience to God’s revelation requires faith.

So what is God’s revelation to us? Here is the Word of God before us, saying “Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.” The Word of God is plain and clear—are we doing it? It says “You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people”—you are the priest, the communicator, the one who can pray, the person who should cry to God for your country. Do you act on this?

Let us learn from the simplicity that we see in these shepherds- “The Lord has revealed this to us, let us see this Saviour. Let us go now.” To us supposedly intellectual people, we feel that inaction is a part of our superior intellect. We have lost that simplicity. We have become proud. It is pride that makes us so isolated and self-sufficient. We like to appear like anybody else except a disciple of Jesus. If you are not ready to deal with this pride, you will never fulfil God’s mission for your life.

Look at the shepherds: “And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad

the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds” (verses 16-18).

Do you have this sense of wonder and amazement in your response to Christ? Many people have taken the wonder out of the Word of God. They have taken the wonder out of the Gospel and replaced it with sighs, grumbling, unbelief and inaction.

Let us be careful we do not project a different kind of Jesus. When the shepherds saw the Lord, they were filled with the wonder of the Gospel. To this day, God never allows the Gospel to become a second-hand revelation. When you share Jesus He reveals Himself to people! Jesus speaks to people. He works in people today. When you share Christ with others, the wonder of Christ’s revelation will be yours to see. The modern, educated mind, with its scepticism and unbelief, tends to diminish the wonder of the Gospel. We wonder at a man going to the moon, but somehow Jesus Christ is stale.

It is time for us to amend our ways and humble ourselves. If the Creator humbled Himself for you and me, sending Jesus in the form of a servant, we ought to humble ourselves. My dear people, at this Christmas-time, let us be simple and real. The world has moved away from the Christ of Christmas. His manger is unattended. People view His miraculous coming as myth or ancient story. People feel that Christmas is a time to drink and dance—what for? “Because I love myself, I do not

## “Picking Apples”

in Acts 11:23 that at Antioch Barnabas saw the evidence of the grace of God. The prime evidence is always conviction of sin, which will lead to repentance. There can be no salvation without this. Conviction will vary in degree from one person to another, but it must be there.

In past generations Christians used to make a distinction between a soul awakened and a soul saved. By “awakened” they meant that the Holy Spirit was beginning to deal with the person. Conviction was coming and a longing for pardon was being created. But this was not yet conversion. Perhaps we

today ought again to make this distinction and not try to hasten the work, which the Holy Spirit is beginning.

This does not mean that we sit back and do nothing. If you see souls that God is awakening, then pray for them. Help and advise, but let the Holy Spirit do His own peculiar work. When they are ripe, they will come easily and no pressure will be needed.

There are no rotten apples in a harvest that is reaped by the Holy Spirit of God.

—Selected

love the Saviour, I do not want to please the Saviour on His birthday.” There is no birthday celebration in the whole world like the birthday of Jesus. If you go to a birthday party, you greet the person whose birthday it is. But many don’t want Christ at His own birthday! O what a tragedy! What a total perversion of Christmas!

Worshipping Jesus—that is Christmas. Bringing joy to the heart of Jesus. By every means possible, let us bring joy to the heart of Jesus.

—Joshua Daniel

## Weekly Meetings —Welcome to All—

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 am at:

**Community Christ Church** in Novi, MI  
46200 West Ten Mile Rd.

Call (248) 486-6326 or (248) 380-8633

**University of Michigan** Mondays 7:00pm

Angell Hall, Room G-144

Call (248) 486-6326

**University of Windsor** Sundays 5:00pm

University Community Church.

Call (519) 978-1495

**Oakland University:** (248) 374-5565

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**South Lyon, MI:** (248) 446-3080

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## Hear “The Lord’s Challenge” Weekly Gospel Radio

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**Detroit, MI:** 560 AM (WMUZ) Sat. 5:00 pm

**Shortwave** (Sundays 2:15 pm, EST)

WHRI 19 Metre band 15.355 MHz

**Des Moines, IA:** 1460 (KDMI)

Sat. 7:30 am, Sun. 11:00 pm

**Fort Wayne, IN:** 1090 AM (WFCV) Sat. 4:00 pm

**Council Bluffs, IA:** 1560 AM (KLNG) Sun. 8:00am

**Atlanta, GA:** 86 AM (LOVE 86) Sun. 2:00 pm

**Guyana:** 560 AM (VoG) Sun. 6:15 pm

**Toronto, Ont:** 1250 AM (CJYE) Thurs 3.15 pm

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