

Dr. Turner, Parks & Hughes  
DENTISTS.  
Mary Street, Union City  
Telephone 144.

# THE COMMERCIAL

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## Christmas Sermon

Notes on Discourse Delivered by Rev. J. L. Hudgins, at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Sunday Morning, Dec. 25, 1906.

"Glory to God in the Highest, on Earth Peace, Good Will to Men."—Luke 2: 14.

We are nearing Christmas, the celebration of the mightiest event in the earth, the birth of Jesus Christ, the world's Savior.

In his birth the world was given a clear conception of a man's worth, and a real, genuine, saving religion.

Man has never been without a religion of some kind, for the religious instinct is universal in man. "Even in savage bosoms there are yearnings, longings and strivings for a thing they comprehend not."

Plutarch says: "You may see states without walls, laws, coins or writings, but a people without a god and a prayer has no man seen."

A nation of atheists has never been known, because the universal heart of man pants and longs for God. Columbus once reported the inhabitants of Hayti to be without any form of religion, but he soon discovered his mistake and reported it.

Paul gives the true status of the pagan world in Rom. 1: 20: "The invisible things of Him are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

But while it is true that the world has always had a religion—indeed, many religions, in each of which there was more or less of truth—until the birth of Christ the world moved blindly in its search for God.

The divineness of the human soul, the image of its Creator, shows through Zoroastrianism, in its fire-worship; through Brahminism in its casts; through Buddhism in its culture; through Confucianism in its filial piety, and even through the religions of ancient Egypt, Greece and the Norsemen, but it shows but dimly.

The tendency of the nations controlled by these religions was toward retrogression, and had no other system of religion ever been revealed to man his course would have been constantly downward.

It may be said that in material things the states of antiquity had a civilization which in many respects equaled the civilization of modern nations. It is true that in art, literature, philosophy, laws and governmental mechanism and in military strength the Greeks and Romans rivaled all nations. But this high civilization, reached by the native power of the human will, courage and perseverance, was sadly and fearfully defective

and deceptive. Their glory was built upon shame, their strength upon weakness, and what seemed to be virtue was but the basest of vice. Laws theoretically good were practically perverted, and egotistic selfishness had become the rule of life, so that the energies of the people were misdirected and their acts corrupted.

All noble aspirations had fled, and the good and wise, discouraged, disgusted, had retired from active life in despair. Eloquence and freedom of speech had been suppressed, and to find fault with public acts was deemed treasonable and punishable by death. From Heracleum to the Caspian Sea one stern will, that of the Roman emperor, ruled—all classes and all orders were ruled by him—there was organic unity and absolute.

Go read your history, my brethren, and you will find that it was during this period—this period of organic oneness—that the world saw the most rapid retrogression in human rights and the greatest prostration of human liberties ever seen in the ante-Christian world.

Socrates, born 470 B. C., said to his pupils: "Unless it please God to send some one from Himself to instruct us, we can never hope to succeed in reforming the morals of men."

Horace, born 45 B. C., said: "We are worse than our fathers, and they were worse than our grandfathers, and we are doomed to leave to the world an offspring still more degraded than we."

But the best description of human conditions under pagan religions is given by Paul in Rom. 1: 28-32: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despisers, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful; who, knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

No wonder the poor old earth was sick and staggered like a drunken man! And no wonder that

the angels of heaven who had looked for ages upon the despairing humanity of this earth, praised God as a great multitude, when they saw Jesus leave His Father's throne and start upon a mission here. No wonder that they exclaimed, as they saw Him touch the earth and heard one of their own number say to the humble shepherds in the field, "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." "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Every good feature of the world's religions was adopted by Christ and carried over into the Christian religion, but every principle which tended to human degradation was rejected.

But in Christianity, the religion introduced by Jesus Christ, there are to be found many beneficent features unknown to either paganism or the religion of the ancient Jews.

First Christianity addresses itself to the neglected masses of the human family, a thing wholly ignored by pagan religions. Brethren, hear me—there are many problems now confronting our own nation and for which our statesmen have sought in vain for solutions, that in my humble and candid opinion can never be solved on any other principle than the Christian religion.

Without discussing them at length here, I mention three of these problems, viz: our foreign population, our native negro population, and the great laboring or wage earning masses.

The only solution to these questions must be brought about by evangelism, and the sooner the Christian forces of our nation awake to the fact that there are twelve million foreigners; eight of the eleven millions of our native negro population; and perhaps ten million native or naturalized white laborers in our own midst—thirty millions—more than one-third of our whole population, who are just as much in need of the influences of Christianity and quite as worthy, I am sure, as are the people of Asia, Africa or any other foreign land, the sooner we shall solve the problems that are so great a menace to our peace and prosperity.

Why send money and missionaries to foreign lands and neglect the unevangelized among us? The false cry is now coming up that we have too many churches in this country, but the cry should be that all that we now have should be filled, and still others established, for the evangelization of the unsaved masses.

Too long, far too long, have the

poor of this world been recognized as objects of charity, and now the Church of Jesus Christ needs to recognize them as worthy of religious attention, as Jesus recognized them when He said, when proving His own Messiahship, "the poor have the gospel preached to them."

The gospel of Christianity is adapted to the needs of the masses, because it is plain and the uneducated can understand it; it is full of sympathy so that the lowly can appreciate it; it is free, or ought to be made so to the needy, so that they can have it. It is elevating, and the humble and the bowed down are lifted up by it, and it is compensating so that the destitute are requited by it.

It is very unbecoming any one claiming to be a Christian to turn away from or neglect the poor, for Jesus Christ whom we follow was born in poverty. Through life he had no settled home, and after his tragic death he was buried in a stranger's grave. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

Christianity is adapted to the masses, because it is a religion of comfort, "to bind up the brokenhearted," and that is what the masses need. Thousands of hearts and homes that have no other comforts have had the comforts of the Christian religion.

Since man's fall sorrow and broken-heartedness has been the common experience of most men. Some sorrow because of diseased bodies; some because of a disturbed conscience or discontented mind; and some because of their lot in life. Parents because of the waywardness of sons and daughters; wives because of the unmanly life and conduct of husbands.

But Christianity teaches every man that the path of sorrow over which men must continue to pass has been beaten smooth by the best that ever lived. Christ Himself was a man of sorrows and millions of his followers have followed Him in that way.

But the gospel tells of a time and place where there are to be no sorrows, and marks the conditions upon which we may enter. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying."

Christianity is to the moral world what the sun is to the solar system, the center of its light, warmth and power.

During these Christmas days, let us seek to fill our souls and hearts with the spirit of our Christ, that we may join in singing.

"All hail the power of Jesus' name,  
Let angels prostrate fall,  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
And crown him Lord of all."  
and then join the angels in saying,  
"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to men."

### A SOUTHERN MAN.

Is the New President of the Southern Railroad.

Mr. William Wilson Finley, the new head of the Southern Railway, recently elected by the directors to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Samuel Spencer, which was occasioned by a wreck at Lawyers, Va., on Thanksgiving Day, has been in continuous railway service since May 1, 1873.

On that date he entered the service of the New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern Railroad, and for the first ten years of his railroad career he served that road and the Chicago, St. Louis & New Orleans Railroad consecutively as stenographer in the Vice-President's office, Secretary to the Receiver, Secretary to the Agent for the Trustees, Chief Clerk for the General Freight Department and Assistant General Freight Agent, which latter position he held for three years. On March 1, 1883, Mr. Finley was appointed Assistant General Freight Agent of the Texas & Pacific Division of the Missouri Pacific, and when the Texas Pacific was placed in the hands of a receiver, on December 15, 1885, he continued as Assistant General Freight Agent of the road.

In 1888 he was appointed General Freight Agent of the Fort Worth & Denver City and other roads comprising the Panhandle Route, which has since been taken over by the Colorado & Southern. The next year he was made Chairman of the Trans-Missouri Traffic Association, and in 1890 was appointed Chairman of the Western Passenger Association. He spent the next three years as General Traffic Manager of the Great Northern, and then went to the Southern as Third Vice-President. Early in 1896 he returned to the Great Northern as Second Vice-President, but remained there only four months before going back to the Southern as Second Vice President, where he has been since.

Mr. Finley was born in Mississippi in 1853, and was 23 years of age when he began his railroad career, and besides being President of the Southern Railway, he has been chosen President of the Mobile & Ohio and the Alabama Great Southern Systems.

"Mother, does Dr. Smith wear his everyday clothes under that long white gown when he preaches?" asked a little girl who had seen the edge of the minister's trousers under his robe.

"Yes, dear," was the reply.

"Well," she continued, "now I know why it is called a surplus."—Harper's Weekly.

Purify the sewers of the body and stimulate the digestive organs to maintain health, strength and energy. PRICKLY ASH BITTERS is a tonic for the kidneys, liver, stomach and bowels. Allen Drug Co., Special Agents.

### Flying Some.

A Christmas turkey at Williams & Skinner's grocery store flew through a side-door window pane after closing Christmas eve and made its escape to the farm. This is not a cranberry story.

### B. C. Whitney's "Isle of Spice"

Miss Beulah Hamilton, of the "Isle of Spice" Company, tells of a very peculiar worship of idols which she witnessed along the sacred road of Nikko, when she was in Japan two years ago. "One of the most curious worships in the world centers around this idol," says Miss Hamilton. "Upon the front of the idol are seen little pieces of what appear to be dried bits of paper. If you stand by the idol for awhile and wait for a worshipper to come along, you will see the object of these bits of paper. The devotee halts in front of the image, then scribbles a prayer on a scrap of paper, which he chews up into a ball and hurls it at the god. If it hits the face and sticks, the prayer is sure to be granted and the pious pilgrim goes away happy; but if the ball sticks to some other part of the body, the omen is not quite so propitious; and if it falls on the ground, there is absolutely no hope of the prayer being answered. Such a mode of prayer," continued Miss Hamilton, "is even more curious than the prayer-wheels of the Buddhists, who set the wheel revolving and reel off prayers by machinery. One sees, of course, numberless strange rites connected with religion in traveling around the world, but Japan is the only place where deities serve as targets for masticated prayers." At Reynolds Opera House, Thursday, January 3.

### TRAINED NURSE

Writes a Letter to the People.

"To Whom It May Concern: I am a trained nurse of nine years' experience in hospitals and private cases, and for the benefit of the people of Union City I wish you would publish my experience with the cod liver oil preparation called Vinol.

"I was completely prostrated from overwork. I had no appetite, could not sleep; my kidneys, liver and bowels became inactive, and as I grew weaker I could not retain either medicine or food on my stomach, and raised blood. The doctors said I was in a critical condition and would probably die.

"As I had seen Vinol prescribed for my patients with such remarkable results, I decided to try it myself. After the first bottle I began to improve. I continued its use, and soon began to eat and sleep well; every organ in my body was strengthened and became normal, until it seemed good to be alive and I was restored to perfect health and strength.

"I believe Vinol is the most potent and delicious cod liver oil preparation and tonic re-builder in the world, and it is such a blessing to be able to take into the system all the body building and medicinal elements of cod liver oil without the nauseating, greasy oil itself.

"I advise all my patients who need strength, rich, red blood and flesh tissue to take Vinol, as it is so far superior to old-fashioned cod liver oil, emulsions or other tonics." Elizabeth M. Cremond, Trained Nurse, Boston, Mass.

In Union City we sell Vinol on a positive guarantee to return money if it fails. Red Cross Drug Store, Watson & Kinzey, Props.  
NOTE.—While we are sole agents for Vinol in Union City, it is now for sale at the leading drug stores in nearly every town and city in the country. Look for the Vinol agency in your town.

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