

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

December 2016

What Think Ye of Christ

By: J.C. Ryle



Christmas is a season which almost all Christians observe in one way or another...

...Christmas parties, Christmas family-gatherings, Christmas services in churches, Christmas hymns and carols, Christmas holly and mistletoe,—who has not heard of these things? ... They are among the first things we remember when we were children. Our grandfathers and grandmothers were used to them long before we were born. ...They seem likely to go on as long as the world stands.

But, reader, how many of those who keep Christmas ever consider why Christmas is kept? ... How many ever reflect that the first intention of Christmas was

to remind Christians of Christ's birth and coming into the world? Reader, how is it with you? What do you think of at Christmas?

... I do not wish to spoil your Christmas cheer. I only wish to put things in their right places. I want Christ Himself to be remembered at Christmas! Give me your attention while I unfold the question—"What think ye of Christ?"

...The number of right thinkers about Christ in every age has been small. The true Christians among professing Christians have always been few...

True Christians have high thoughts of Christ. They see in Him ...a Person who is at one and the same time perfect God, mighty to save, and perfect Man, able to feel...an All-powerful Redeemer, who has paid their countless debts to God, and delivered their souls from guilt and hell... an Almighty Friend, who left heaven for them, lived for them, died for them, rose again for them...an

Almighty Physician, who washed away their sins in His own blood, put His own Spirit in their hearts, delivered them from the power of sin, and gave them power to become God's children. - Happy are they who have such thoughts! Reader, have you?

True Christians have trustful thoughts of Christ... They daily commit the care of their souls to Him, as a man commits a treasure to a safe keeper ...

They look to Him daily for mercy, grace, comfort, help, and strength... Christ is the Rock under their feet, and the staff in their hands, their ark and their city of refuge, their sun and their shield, their bread and their medicine, their health and their light, their fountain and their shelter, their portion and their home, their door and their ladder, their root and their head, their advocate and their physician, their captain and their elder brother, their life, their hope, and their all. Happy are they who have such thoughts! Reader, have you?

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Christmas starts with Christ

True Christians have experimental thoughts of Christ...They have not learned them from schools, or picked them up from others. They think them because they have found them true by their own heart's experience. They have proved them, and tasted them, and tried them... Happy are they who have such thoughts! Reader, have you?

True Christians have loving and reverent thoughts of Christ. They love to do the things that please Him. They like, in their poor weak way, to show their affection to Him by keeping His words. They love everything belonging to Him, - His day, His house, His ordinances, His people, His Book. They never find His yoke heavy, or His burden painful to bear, or His Commandments grievous. Love lightens all... Happy are they who have such thoughts! Reader, have you?

True Christians have hopeful thoughts of Christ.

They expect to receive far more from Him one day than they have ever received yet. ... They look forward to Christ's second coming and expect that then they shall see far more than they have seen, and enjoy far more than they have yet enjoyed...They have hopeful thoughts of Christ's second Advent, of their own resurrection from the grave, of their reunion with all the saints who have gone before them, of eternal blessedness in Christ's kingdom. Happy are they who have such thoughts! ...Reader, have you such thoughts?

Reader, thoughts such as these are the property of all true Christians. Some of them know more of them and some of them know less... But all true Christians are, more or less, acquainted with these thoughts. In this matter churchmen and dissenters, rich and poor, all are agreed, if they are true Christians. In other things they may be unable to agree and see alike. But they all agree in their thoughts about Christ. One word they can all say, which is the same in every tongue. That word is "Hallelujah," praise to the Lord Christ! One answer

they can all make, which in every tongue is equally the same. That word is, "Amen," so be it!

... I ask you this day, - "What think ye of Christ?"

...this Christmas may possibly be your last...Who can tell but your place may be empty, when the family party next Christmas is gathered together? Do not, I entreat you, put off my question or turn away from it...

Begin, I beseech you, this day to have right thoughts of Christ, if you never had them before ... Let this present Christmas be a starting point in your soul's history. Awake to see the value of your soul, and the immense importance of being saved. Break off sharp from sin and the world. Get down your Bible and begin to read it. Call upon the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer, and beseech Him to save your soul. Rest not, rest not till you have trustful, loving, experimental, hopeful thoughts of Christ...

Reader, I say for the last time, if you would have a happy Christmas, have right thoughts about Christ.



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