

Christmas: A Time for Prayer

I exhort, therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men.

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come into the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus;

Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

—1 Timothy 2:1-8

Although the occasion for St. Paul's letter to his beloved pupil, Timothy, from which the above lines are taken, was not Christmastime, there is, nevertheless, much in it which applies particularly to the time and manner of our celebration of the birth of our Saviour. As yet, humanity as a whole, not clearly understanding or fully responding to the spiritual truths involved in the Mystic Birth, has not learned to observe this Holy Season altogether in the light of its true significance.

The birth of the man Jesus, whose physical and vital bodies were used by the Christ Spirit (a Ray of the Cosmic Christ) during His three and one-half years upon our Earth, symbolizes a spiritual awakening which takes place within every human being at some time during his evolutionary journey from clod to God—a manifestation of the Christ Principle inherent in each of God's children. This awakening is followed by the growth of a feeling of kinship or oneness with all other created beings, and a desire to express this in kindness and helpfulness to others—all of which is an event for great rejoicing and thanksgiving,

not only by the individual himself and his brothers "in Christ," but by those Higher Ones who are ever striving to aid us in our struggle toward the spiritual heights.

So it is that Christmas, in a double sense, is truly a time during which every Christian should exhort himself that "...supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men." It is a time to realize anew that "...there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (*The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* gives a full and logical explanation of this statement.)

How wonderful it will be—and the time will be hastened by the efforts of every individual who endeavors to follow "in His steps"—when all the Christian world, having learned to practice His precepts, will "lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." Then Christmas time will be marked by a world hosanna of rejoicing and thanks to God for all His many blessings—and particularly for the priceless blessing of His Son who came of His own free will to enter into the cramping confines of our Earth and become its indwelling Planetary Spirit, and thus make possible our redemption from the grip of materiality.

Then, too, there will be world-wide prayers for our fellow men, not merely for those whom we love; for those far away, as well as for those nearby; for those "in authority," as well as for those in lowly circumstances. Then indeed men everywhere will pray, "lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." □