

When Jesus Christ was born from Virgin Mary, from that time on He lived an exemplary life, a life which men everywhere should emulate. This Life and the Faith that He taught us assures us of salvation, assures us also of harmony and a peaceable life upon Earth. Because of the exemplary character of the life of Jesus Christ it is right that all men do their maximum in their human efforts to see to it that they approximate as much as they can the good example that has been set by Him.

It is quite true that there is no perfection in humanity. From time to time we all make mistakes, we do commit sins but even as we do that, deep in our hearts as Christians we know we have forgiveness from the Almighty. He taught us that all who seek Him shall find Him, and through Him we have access to the Throne of God and His Grace.

For a Christian people no day save Easter is as glorious and as joyous as the day on which they commemorate the Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. On this day each one of us tries to forget his worries and his anxieties and endeavours to alleviate those of his loved ones and friends, and to forgive those who have wronged him, so as to meditate on the life of Him who is Supreme Lord of All, the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace, and the Wonderful Counselor.

From Our early childhood we are struck by the sentiments of unfathomable mystery, simple and yet sublime, which stirs up in us the evocation of the Birth of the Divine Child. Little Baby come to die, not for his own transgressions but for ours, that we may be reconciled to Him and His Father.

The Mystery of Bethlehem reveals itself in our spirits, more fascinating the more we advance on the path of life, and the more we realise the magnitude of the mission each one of us has set before us in this world, be it humble or noble, arduous or thankless. An unheard of event, expected for more than forty centuries has at last been accomplished: the Son of God is born. He has only a stable for His palace and a manger for a cradle. The Light of the World has stepped out into Darkness. The hearts of the wise are thrilled by this majestic humility, and the kings of the Earth bend their knees before Him and worship Him.

'Peace on Earth, goodwill to men,' - this was His first message – delivered by His holy angels to simple Shepherds. In the same manner when He went to the summit of Calvary, there to expiate our sins with the supreme sacrifice, His blood and life for our sins. He gave up His life for us, invoking forgiveness for His very tormentors: 'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.'

In pondering over the life, the goodness, humanity, deity and sacrifice of the Saviour of the World, in looking at the laws which He gave us, how much should we be ashamed to call ourselves Christian people, and yet not to follow His footsteps. Yet many of us who claim His name, live in ways that would bring shame upon Him.

When we speak of Jesus and of His life, we speak of a man revered as a prophet and teacher by people of all religions, and Christians speak of someone greater -- a man who was and is divine. He brought forth a power that is infinite and a promise that is eternal, a power greater than all mankind's military might, for His power is Godly love, love that can lift our hearts and soothe our sorrows and heal our wounds and drive away our fears. He promised there will never be a long night that does not end. He promised to deliver us from dark torment and tragedy into the warming sunlight of human happiness, and beyond that, into paradise. He's never been a halfway giver; His generosity is pure and perfect and sure.

This, then, expresses the true meaning of Christmas: If each of us could give but a fraction to one another of what He gave to the whole human family, how many hearts could heal, how much sorrow and pain could be driven away? There's still time for joy and gladness to touch a sad and lonely soul, still time to feed a hungry child, to wrap a present for a kind old man feeling forlorn and afraid, and to reach out to an abandoned mother raising children on her own. And there's still time to remember the deepest truth of all: that there can be no prisons, no walls, no boundaries or colour, place, or age separating the members of God's family. We are bought at such a price, from the Manager to the Cross, Love for our sakes became man. Can we not for Christ's sake become love?

Let us reach out tonight to every person who is lonely, beset, or persecuted; let us embrace and comfort, support and love them. Let us come together as one Christian family under the fatherhood of God, binding ourselves in a communion of hearts, for tonight and tomorrow and for all time.

Merry Christmas,
God Save the Queen,
and God Bless Her Loyal Subjects everywhere.

Robert, Duke of Florida, Lord of St. George, GSB
Her Majesty's Governor-General in and for the
Dominion of British West Florida.