

Keeping Christ after Christmas

Last Thursday was the Feast of Epiphany; at Grace we observed it on Wednesday evening, though, following the old church custom of celebrating the eves of the major feasts. Well, actually, when we have worship in weekdays, we usually have it on Wednesday evenings; it just so happens that the Eve of Epiphany fell on a Wednesday this year.

At any rate, with Epiphany, Christmas is officially over, and it is time to go back to everyday life; hopefully, though, this will not mean moving on as if nothing has happened.

Many, of course, have celebrated a Christmas without Christ. Obviously, it is just silliness to claim that nobody did, because it is not within our abilities! To give no thought to Christ at Christmas is just as easy as it is not to give thanks to God at Thanksgiving. All it takes is - well, not to. Just as it is easy, also, by the way, not to worship demons on Halloween; all that that takes is that when your children dress up and go trick-or-treating, or when you dress up yourself, you do not call upon any evil spirits in the process!

For some, though, Christmas is the one time of the year when they hear and think about Christ. And I suspect that there are those who wish it were not so, and would like to pay more attention to the things of God throughout the year. When hearing and singing of "God and sinners reconciled", some people probably sense that this is something that really should mean something in my life and not be put aside and forgotten as soon as Christmas is over with. But, as our Lord Jesus has said it, "the cares of this world choke the Word", once life returns to its regular routines and concerns and stresses.

And it really is easy not to have Christ in your life. All you have to do is - well, nothing; which, when it all comes down to it, really is not very much.

On the other hand, it is not all that much you have to do to have Christ in your life, either; in fact, ultimately, it is really not your doing at all. "The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart", writes the holy Apostle Paul, "that is: the Word of faith which we proclaim." Christ is Himself the eternal Word of God. In His faithful Church, where it is His Word that is spoken, there He is at hand to give Himself to those who will know of Him; where it is not, there He is not. To live in the Word of His love is to live in His love, and to have Him give Himself to us, and all things good and glorious with Him.

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