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Class 5 and save.....	63.75	Class 200 and save.....	100.00
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Enroll Yourself - Enroll Each Member of Your Family - Get Your Friends to Join  
Set Your Children a Good Example Teach Them the Saving Habit  
Encourage Your Employes to Have Bank Accounts - Everybody is Welcome

# First National Bank

DOWNERS GROVE, ILL.

### Christmas Messages From The Local Pastors

(Continued from preceding page)

God is a national creation. Every day many are asking for the same position that can be given only to one and the child asks its father for benefits at the expense of its brother. Praying for victory by all the nations is an expression of the agony that is in the heart of man, and that God may soon end what human folly began.

A long time ago many comfortable sinners were annoyed by a certain steady rainfall. The rain continued and they became alarmed; as the waters rose they were frightened and fled from their pleasant rooms to the hills and high mountains. Higher the waters rose and at last the people of the earth looked up into the dimmed sky and remembered God. Lately too the world has been having a joyful time. Religion was derided because it interfered with ease and pleasure; the lowest white was crowded. Then the deluge came.

We may be sure that more prayers will go forth from the hearts of men on this Christmas Day than have for many years past. They will be the prayers of people humble and bewildered, of people who have lost faith in themselves, but have regained faith in God.

### THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

By Rev. Paul N. Crusius.

Christmas suggests one message and only one, the message of the angels to the shepherds on Bethlehem's plain. Peace is the message, peace on earth to men of good will. Out of all that the coming of Christ has meant to mankind the common consent of the Christian centuries has clung to His carol of the angels as the classic expression of God's will and man's hope.

But the world was at peace when Jesus came; the world is at war today. Wars have been fought in the name of Jesus; this war is being fought by men who bear the name of Christ, yet does not God mock us. That peace in the reign of Augustus was a Roman peace. It was the peace of subjection and submission to one world empire, such a peace could not last. And there was no peace in the heart of men.

The peace that Jesus brought came into the hearts of men. That peace is secure in the midst of alarms and wars. The peace that will come at the end of all wars will be brought about neither by wars nor leagues. It will rise over the world as inevitably and graciously as the sun that men hail will involuntarily delight when it flushes the eastern horizon with auroral glory. When peace is in the heart of men, it will come over the world. Only Christ can give that peace, and he can leave it only to his believers.

The wars of the world have shown, not the failure of Christianity, but

the spirit of Christ in all men, and for all men in all their work and life, peace is to men of good will.

### CHRISTMAS

By Rev. P. G. Nuffer.

Again we turn to the story which is always new, without which the years would be without their crowning festival day. With the shepherds who heard on Bethlehem's plain the song of peace on earth sung by the angel choir. Let us again go to Bethlehem, and allow the blessedness

of real Christmas sink into our hearts. There is no need for us to be told the story anew, for it is the first Bible story we ever learned, but it is well for us to ask ourselves again and again whether we have really appropriated the blessings of the event to our souls. Has Christmas become a time of the heedless giving of gifts and the eating of meals, with no real regard for its true significance.

Let us make the Christmas of this year 1917, a season of real worship, devotion, reverence, and honor to him Jesus Christ our Saviour in all of our special undertakings as a community. For this is an occasion far

superior to any other, in it not only men are interested, but heaven joins in the celebration, for it primarily is a heaven born event, for we remember the heavenly announcements, inspired prophecies, and promises, and after due thought and reasoning, we come to the conclusion that God, of whom we are constrained to say, is the God of love, toward all men as in it all. Hence it is a day intended equally blessed for all of Mankind. The gift of God, the greatest ever given to man, which is rightly called the Unspeakable gift, offers, is intended to bring to every ones need, both for this world, and that to come,

a completeness, a sufficiency of divine favors and gifts.

If we would celebrate Christmas intelligently and sincerely, free from sham, it behooves us to invite and make room for Jesus, in our hearts and lives, let Him be the honored guest, in reality, and not only at times. Sing All Hail the Power of Jesus Name, but really Crown Him Lord of All. Such a Christmas would mean an acceptance of Jesus, and no rejection, for not against, confessing Jesus Christ and cursing Him. The greatest fact in history is, that Jesus Christ came into this world to save sinners. If men are aware of such a fact, and act wisely then shall we be able to celebrate Christmas properly.

The present condition of the world, prompts us to declare that the Christmas of 1917 is one around which problems are confronting men, such as there never have been since the angels first announcement. Some are even daring the attempt at questioning the success or failure of Jesus Christ Christianity, or in more familiar words, the Christian Religion. Others however, and there are many of them have learned to distinguish between the true and false, between forms and real Godliness. Hence they still hold that true Christianity is not a failure. Christ is not to blame for this war, but rather anti-Christ, and the world's peace which is longed for will be a peace with, in and through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, if it is to accomplish its purpose.

If it be true that men want a lasting peace why not recognize Jesus Christ in all our aims. Thus may it please the Lord to inspire us as a community nation and all other nations, to a most blessed uplifting Christmas season, the inspiration of which shall reach all of mankind, and in particular our homes, and may a double portion of the Christmas spirit come to the homes who have experienced something of what it means to have to go from under its influences, boys to put on the uniforms and march under the flag of our beloved country. May a real Christmas be possible to these boys and such still at home who may ere another Christmas be called upon.

May we be counted worthy of such an event, with such an origin, such a guest, Christ. So that God's approbation may rest upon us, and we be able to carry that self-sacrificing Christmas spirit through another year.

(Continued on next page)



## For a REAL MERRY CHRISTMAS

COME IN AT ONCE AND ORDER A VICTROLA FOR YOUR WIFE, DAUGHTER OR FAMILY, TOGETHER WITH A SELECTION OF RECORDS AND ASSURE YOURSELF OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE CHRISTMAS DAY YOU EVER HAD.

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