

12-15-1943

Notes: Christmas Vesper: Christmas Chapel, 1943

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Wed 1944

IV

Christmas. Chapel. Dec. 15, 1943

An axiom of
life and living

1. Axiomatic that we get from any experience in life, what we bring to it - we receive in the measure of our understanding, our willingness to learn, our profound ^{principle-struggle} ~~essential~~ humility before ^{King's} ~~greater~~ than we - esp. true of Christmas this year. see it in its totality - Turner-

2. [Also time of Christmas] ^{And so} - have heard much of its joy + happiness - but there can be made more glorious more significant only by a sensitive awareness of the shadows beyond the light of the Manger - if you consider the world at high noon the candles of Christmas will mean little and bring no greater light - a candle is important only in a dark room - and so with Christmas - No accident "Bad's Christmas Oratorio", the solemn, shadowed strains of "O Blessed Christmas finds its ultimate meaning in the darkness of the Cross - for ^{the world}, for us -

A strong

3. The tragedy of Xmas! The manifestation of a level of living which we cannot maintain - of the joy, the happiness, the unselfishness in the air - we just are not big enough to keep it, to make it work 365 days a year - & so Xmas is only the world's moment of eternity, the sudden & saddening glimpse of the open door of a warm & lighted home on a winter's night - the realization that with Christmas in the world & in our hearts we could do so much better than we have - CVU - that's what Christmas does - takes the roof off life - opens the windows toward heaven - tells us, gently, that heaven is never closed since that night -

Potentialities - we can travel toward it, our hands held by a Child -