

## DOCTRINE FOR THE YOUNG

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# THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

by the Rev. Kenneth Alden

Each year the days get shorter and shorter as we approach the Christmas season. By the time Christmas arrives, the total amount of daylight has just begun to increase. Still, the cold has only just begun to intensify. The coming warmth of spring lags about six weeks behind the increase of light.

Such is the progression of human states. When the Lord was born on earth, and later began to teach, there was new light being shed on the earth. But it was winter light, for men did not receive its warmth until their cold toward Him intensified and brought about His crucifixion. Nor did the warmth of love with the simple good have the strength to stop those of the fallen church. Afterwards, a new church began in which the light of faith was conjoined with the warmth of charity and love to the Lord. So the Lord's church on earth entered its era of spring.

The cycles of individual human states follow a very similar pattern. We learn a new truth. A part of us resists it, but if it is well with us, a higher part begins to embrace the truth and live by it, carrying us onward in our regeneration.

May the Christmas Season this year bring us a strong and clear light, and may the Lord hasten its conjunction with the warmth of love to Him and charity toward our neighbor. May we all have an early and long spiritual spring this year.