

Note

This translation is based on a faithful transcription of a recorded talk by Bruno Gröning. The decision was taken to leave any grammatical or verbal slips in the German original unaltered, in order to preserve the authenticity of the source. In the English version these have mostly been corrected.

Numbers marked <1> indicate the corresponding CD tracks. CDs of the original tape recordings can be ordered from the following internet address: www.bruno-groening-stiftung.org

Bruno Groening often stated that he came to help everybody, regardless of their language, nationality, race or religion, and his intention was to transmit the healing energy to everyone on earth. He derived his teaching from that of Christ and therefore used the language of Christianity. However, this was in no way intended to exclude people of other faiths, who can transfer his teaching to the context of their own religions.

Talk by Bruno Gröning, Pirmasens, 21.12.1956

“Christ is our brother!”

<1>

My dear friends!

I believe every one of you must have already known today what the Christmas festival means for us. I know how human beings have been completely delivered over to a force – the force of habit, that, from time immemorial, human beings have never properly understood what is right, have never properly taken it in, and for that reason they have never been able to pass it on either. It is just as it is in everyday life, that neither one person nor another has correctly understood either the one thing or the other, and so passes it on misunderstood. And if it has drifted like this from person to person, then subsequently one will soon be able to realise that a quite different picture has been reflected back; that what is right can hardly be discerned from this picture anymore; in fact, that it has been completely distorted! And it is precisely for this reason, my dear friends, since this is the way things are for them, that human beings have not yet understood the birth of Christ correctly and in the right way.

But I do not want to promote myself in particular on this account, perhaps as the only one amongst humankind, perhaps so that one or other of you still comes to the thought – would come to the thought that I would like to overturn everything today; no! What is truth is truth, and it cannot be distorted in any way. But today I am helping you a bit further with how we can receive the truth in the right way and how we can understand it as well and as honestly as possible.

I know, just as you yourselves know it too, that every year you remind yourselves about the time of your birthday, that is, the hour of your birth. If you don't, then you are reminded of it. Already weeks in advance, your relatives, your parents them-

selves are making preparations so that they can make you happy, so that they can delight you on this day; for this reason, because you are still earthbound yourselves, and for this very reason you can also only give your child an earthly gift. For, even with all of this, a great deal was lacking, so that the parents hardly – or not at all – thought about this, about giving this child of theirs the purely divine to take with them on their way.

But for this reason I do not want to say that they, that human beings, are to be counted amongst the most wicked of things, no. Now as before I remain with what is also the truth: that every human being is divine! Only, we must not forget the purely divine, only we must not forget ourselves. And just as a child on their birthday, as human beings call this day, is richly endowed with gifts, as far as it is possible for the parents, the relatives, the relations, the acquaintances to endow them with earthly goods.



And how is it, my dear friends, later on in life? We always think about “One”! And every year we also celebrate the birthday of our saviour. Yes, why, how so, for what reason? Is he related to us? But we do not see him! That is, many human beings do not see him. But they have no feeling for it! No, they were living another life, of course, not the life that they should have been living.

I know that many people have not understood the birth of Christ. Consider this a little further: how have you, up to now, celebrated this holiday? Here too you have made preparations. Parents, they have taken care that everything in their home is in the best order. They have made provision so that everyone who belongs to the family will be richly endowed with gifts.

The father has taken care of this: He has worked; for some months he has worked more than usual, simply so as to be able to endow his relatives richly with gifts. The mother herself has concerned herself further with everything, that is, with putting everything in order, so that she has also made it so cosy for her husband – the father – so that he feels well and comfortable. She showed that she was grateful to her husband.

And the little child saw everything then; the parents observed how the child was delighted by these earthly things, that is, by the gifts, how they played and kept on coming up to their parents: “Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

Yes, my dear friends, up to now even grownups were living in a belief that they would be well endowed with gifts. A few were delighted at being able to give gifts themselves. In any case, this was their attitude: “Christmas is certainly a holiday, a festival of giving.”

But there is something else in human beings, without their knowing what it means for them, what they have by way of the joy of giving on this day, since in any event they

prepare for it already weeks, months in advance, so that they can delight their neighbours; so that they can give them joy; so that they will be able to give them something.

Now, I had not celebrated these holidays with everyone else, not so hard and fast; no! I observed them with sober eyes. I also have ears on my body so as to hear as well. I also have a feeling, a very good feeling for human beings, for how they have taken things into themselves. It was never the right thing. Seldom have I found it so. If I had only found one single family who genuinely were what they, that is, what all human beings should have been, then for years now I would have been the happiest of men.

But it is precisely for this reason, my dear friends, because I have never encountered this before, for this reason I feel myself obliged to tell human beings the truth; to tell them what this holiday means for us. Now, it is the holy holiday, the holiest in fact that we can possibly have.



Let us not forget, and you in particular should not forget, what you have been reminded of so often here in this community of yours. But let us not forget anything at all; let us think further about this, how in the family here the mother and the father speak to each other so often and say: “Do you know, our little baby, our little daughter – when I brought her into the world,” the mother says, “how little she was and how I took care of my child! And today: it’s just wonderful, to have such a child; she is absolutely the most beautiful thing!”

But, oh dear! The child grows bigger and tells her parents the truth, since to a certain extent they still do not know what truth is. And then the child gets beatings administered to her. And then she doesn’t receive quite such nice gifts if her birthday is approaching or if it is already here, so that ... Then the relatives say, and the parents say as well: “You were not good so you don’t get so much!”

Let us always make comparisons in life; let us compare everything here on this earth, how we, human beings, live and what we strive for. And let us compare our earthly father with our divine father, and in that case there is certainly a very, very great distinction.

But I don’t want to reach out too far today, my dear friends. I simply want to restrict myself to that which is most necessary for us, for all human beings. Let us think further back; let us take thought for ourselves. Do you believe, do human beings in general believe, that God just gave us a body like this and that was it, so that we could have a completely free rein to do with it as we pleased? Or so that we human beings might say: “Yes, well, God...! Well, is there a God anyway? If there were a God, then there would be no war; then things would not have got to such a point that we have to go hungry; for then everything would be much, much more beautiful and

better than they are; then there would not be so many evil people!”, and a great deal more like this.

Yes, my dear friends, God *has* given us more. All of that really did not have to happen. We do not need evil. But it is also ordained like this. For if there were no evil, then there would be nothing good and we would not be aware of any distinction in this; on the contrary, if there were no evil – I have already had to say it often enough here in your community too – , then there would be nothing good at all. That is, if there is nothing evil, there is nothing good; on the contrary, nothing but evil.

Now let’s consider this further: God really has given us everything; a wonderful body like this, with which we can move and set everything in motion; with which we can create things; with which we can arrange things so well for us here on this his earth, so that we really do feel at home here and so that we can take delight in this life. But where are there still people today who are so delighted? They have fallen prey to an endless seeking, an addiction; they seek out what is most precious on this earth so that they can enrich themselves with it. It even goes so far that human beings have forgotten themselves. How often I have heard it from human beings: “Human beings today are just like this, and they sell their own grandmothers! They don’t care about their neighbours at all!” Yes, this and much, much more as well.

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Yes, my dear friends, God has not just given us a body and nothing more, so that we can have a free rein to do with it as we please; on the contrary, he has given us everything. He also sent us a son, his son, who was to lead all human beings back onto the path that leads to God, our father.

But how have human beings understood their birth in general? And how have they – the parents even – persecuted this little child and how, how many human children were martyred to death because of this; without a second glance, without mercy! But that was a sign, that already back then human beings had become very, very wicked. They did not want the good; they did not tolerate the fact that someone stood over them.

Starting from here, my dear friends, let us consider carefully what this history shows us as well. Let us become attentive. Already back then it came to persecutions. Already back then there were rulers, rulers of this earth, who then presumed, who then believed that they were everything and that a faithful, believing person was nothing. But that is still not all, my dear friends. Today we should have known much, much more still. And we must always go back again; and every year we are reminded of this as well – of the birth of Christ.

I know, as I have already said, that many people just lived in a belief; that human beings had fallen prey to a force, the force of habit, that they had already been deliv-

ered over to it, and in this way they celebrated the festival of Christ, the Christmas festival.

Yes, they even say: “The Christmas tree is burning.” (I have never yet seen..., but no, now and again I have seen a Christmas tree burning!) I have only seen the little candles, which were burning. I have seen people who were only delighted if they had received lots of good gifts. It was a holiday. People also went to church – and they still do today; but only in order to witness something interesting there. Not paying attention to themselves, but: “What is here? What is to the left? What is to the right? What’s down there? What’s up there? Who’s this person with? Who’s that person with?” And so on and so forth. It was “lovely”. And it is like this already from childhood on; yes indeed, the force of habit ...!

But where is and remains the force, the power of God? Where do human beings themselves remain? Where have they ever been mindful of themselves? Where have they ever been properly mindful of their neighbour? Where have they been able to give their neighbour the correct indication that they should take thought for themselves at this holy time? This time should have been the most holy for all human beings, just as it is in reality, in truth.

I know, my dear friends, I know this as well, that human beings have not taken the scripture as being all that true. Today they say: “It might have happened; yes, it actually was like that. Ah, weren’t people ghastly!”, and much more like this. But they have never properly pondered on this: What does the birth of Christ mean for us?

Why have we been born? Why are we here on this earth? No one is without a guide; everyone is guided! There are two guides, that is, there is one who seduces and leads astray and there is one who does guide us on our way. The only question is: God has allowed human beings – his children – so much freedom, so that they can move around freely on this his great, divine earth.

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Do they feel drawn to the seducer, that is, to the one who really only leads them astray? In that case we are given proof that they have forgotten themselves, that they have never paid attention to this fact, that right at the start they can take in sufficient divine power so as to be master over the evil one. And precisely at the present time, human beings really ought to have been more thoughtful, more attentive to this.

Which paths or which particular path has Christ pointed out to us? Have human beings correctly understood him? Have they properly understood and passed on that which has already been spoken from the mouth of Christ? Well, have they? But that which has been passed on, human beings today just take it, read it, take it just like that and say: “Yes, I believe!” But they don’t reflect on it any further. And now it is Christmas, when we are reminded of all this. No one, whether they have the feeling for it or not, no one even begins to look and see whether it is truth, whether it can be

truth. My dear friends, human beings can only do this when they have recognised themselves; when they know who and what they are. Those who have reflected on themselves, only they, starting from themselves, can then go on to the other. Otherwise it is not possible!

And that is how it is here too, that people have never yet understood. I do not need to tell you all that much. One thing is certainly clear to you, that almost 2000 years ago God sent us his son. He spoke to us through his son, through the body of his son. Christ is our brother! But you have never yet recognised him as this. He is so exalted. He is entirely with God. He is in God. He is all in all! And this is where human beings say: “We can’t get as far as that. We just want to believe!”

But if only human beings ponder carefully on all of this, on every word he spoke; if only they take the scripture as being true and if only they might have once just taken a step towards it! The step towards the church, the step towards the pew – no, friends, these on their own are not enough!

We must..., already today we should have got as far as putting the words of Christ into action. Or do you still not take this all that seriously today? *You* do, to a certain extent, but many people still don’t at all; many people just do it for an appearance of righteousness, for an outward appearance. They affirm it, so that the people around them see and hear: “I am a believer, I go to church; I do this, that and the other; I speak about God!” Should that be it? Do people believe that they have grasped the genuine faith and belief? Do they believe that this satisfies them? Yes, it does satisfy them! But that which will be picked up there will make them unsatisfied even so. How often do people say: “Yes, I go to church. That is enough! And I see and hear everything there. But that is enough!”

But *here?* (*Bruno indicates the region around his heart*) Who has taken it into their heart? Who has been that thoughtful? And who knows what truth is anyway?

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If human beings were more thoughtful and if they celebrate the festival as they ought to have celebrated it, then that is good. As earthbound human beings, we receive gifts from our parents, from our fathers, who indeed work for it themselves. But that is the earthly, that is the wordly. Question: Where is the divine in all this? If we put the words of Christ, all of them, into practice, just as he told us to as well, that we should follow him; then, yes, then human beings would already be on the right path. They should put them all into practice; a mere couple of steps is not enough. As I have already said, when they get themselves caught up in the belief: “If I go to church, that’s enough! And if I work for it, so that I also pay taxes for it, then that is enough! That makes me a believer, a person of faith!” No, friends: Faith is when we, when every human being shows it with deeds. They should put faith into practice!

If that is how it is with them, then that is right. And it is precisely for this reason that we have come together today, so that you, my dear friends, now that the holy hour is drawing near, so that you will not be unprepared. Just as here in your earthly life you have nevertheless prepared yourselves for the festival. You've put your backs into it, so that, as I have already said, you have got rid of any dirt and grime in your homes, that is, have undertaken a thorough cleaning. And you have also thought about the gifts and everything. But here too should we not also separate ourselves – I ought to have said this already – from all rubbish? Should we not have released ourselves from everything that had burdened us? Should we not have done everything to become free of this, to be able to lay aside this heavy burden, to be rid of it, and to receive the purely divine now?

Who has thought about this? When has a human being thought about this? When have they been so thoughtful? When? We really should have done everything for this. And to this end, with all of this I want to prepare you briefly in advance, so that you really do not enter this holy time unprepared, as it is now coming towards us – we don't need to do anything about it; it is approaching us all by itself – so that we are also really prepared to receive what God, our father, intends to give us on this day.

Christmastime: This is the holy time. This is the most beautiful time of our life, when we are reminded of the truly divine. And how beautiful, how wonderful it is, if we really prepare ourselves for the festival in advance, so that God can give us what he has intended for us. But it is logical that we must separate ourselves from everything that has not been right for us, from everything evil, and that we must then stand completely by our word; that we really do release ourselves and that we believe what God really – God, who is our natural father, after all – that he can then also give it to us, if we have made ourselves ready.

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Up to now, my dear friends, this was just idle talk on the part of human beings. They have done everything possible. But seldom had anyone – I would rather say no one – prepared themselves beforehand sufficiently. Human beings have become too worldly. Without being aware of it at all, they had to separate themselves from the divine. A force came over them and this is the force of habit. But in the end we must know – each one of us must know – that, if God, who is life itself, should withdraw himself, where would we be then? Or did you believe, my dear friends, that God, our father, is like this: that he just gives us a body and says: “Now you look to how you will manage with it!”? I don't believe so!

I know that human beings do not yet understand this either, so that, just as when they say: “I believe, I have faith – but I don't get all that much! I don't have piles of money. People who don't believe, they have so much. They don't just eat; they feast; they don't just drink, they gulp it down; they don't just live, but they revel; they have

everything in abundance; and I, believer that I am – I am so poor; I have nothing! That is just not right!”

This crops up all the sooner among human beings when they blaspheme against God, when they insult him. And yet they do not know what they have done by doing this. And if they finally well and truly sink down into misery because of this – because they have picked up evil, because they are already handing themselves over to evil – , and if they still cannot recognise what all of this means for them: that they themselves carry the responsibility; that they have separated themselves from God and from the divine in general, and that they are no longer masters of their own bodies; that they have even lost the right to have any say in them at all; that their bodies no longer obey them but rather they (the bodies) fetter human beings here, the spirits that they are.

And this always becomes evident, my dear friends, when human beings know nothing of truth; when they are unable to reflect on themselves; when they still do not know today who they are and what they are; when they still do not know today who Christ is and what he is for us. All of this, my dear friends, it must all be said. You still have time.

You still have so much time that you are able to prepare yourselves properly in order to really take delivery now of what you could not obtain up to now.

But first, make yourselves free! Think far back, right back, if you, if it is possible for you – and your parents will have told you about it – starting from your birth; then you were pure and then you certainly had no need of any intellect. But you don't even need to think as far back as that; if you just think back over all the years, everything you have done and everything you failed to do; whether you have been fair to every person and how much evil you have done. Often you have brought a person into great misfortune, you have made them miserable, just with one single word, without thinking anything about it at all. It just came out of your mouth. This is a sign that you had taken in a great deal of evil and the evil moved your mouth to do this, to say the word which spelt danger for your neighbour.

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But there is so much more still to say. I leave this to each individual friend themselves, so that they become thoughtful; so that they properly establish order now; so that they also tell the truth; so that they recognise that they themselves are guilty to a certain extent and say: “Yes! Before I was not what I should have been. I have done so many bad things, without wanting to. I was too weak and I was led by the evil side, by a person who was in the clutches of evil, I was led so far as to do this. But I acknowledge all of this. I know it! And now I also know that I still have to do a lot of good in order to become what I should, so that I am worthy and so that God, my father, will hear me!” Yes, friends, that is how thoughtful we should have become.

And then we will understand the birth of Christ; then we will know why God sent us his son; then we will understand all of this much, much better. But as long as the individual is still not free – just as many, many of our fellow human beings are not free. There are no human beings without sin. There is no human being who has done nothing evil. But if they were at least honest with themselves and admitted it – you don’t need to tell me; nor do you need to tell any of our neighbours – settle accounts with yourself; sort things out with yourself: “Yes, I was a swine. I should not have said that; I should not have done that!”, and then it is good. Self-recognition is the best way to improvement. How often have I said it to you: Human being, recognise yourself; human being, be master of your body!

Does that mean nothing you? But the whole of life lies there, and it is there that human beings first truly make a start on it. But first they must recognise themselves before they are in a position to recognise anything further, especially the divine. When they have recognised themselves, they know that they are a divine creature; then they know that they are a child of God and then they know what a wonderful body they have; then they also know how to use it properly and then they know how to take in the divine power; then they know how to direct their bodies properly; then they know how to take in so much good that they, they have so much that they are able to give it to their neighbours, and much more like this.

No one will be able to know God, no one will be able to know anything about the birth of Christ, if they know nothing at all about their own; if they know nothing about their life; if they know nothing about themselves. For in that case they are just standing there like a (*Bruno Gröning deliberately moves an ashtray*), like a dead object. This is matter. A human being has, that is, made this, a human being who is a spirit, and in addition to him, in addition to this, he possesses a body, and he had taken in a thought: “I’m going to make something: you smoke – I’m going to make an ashtray!”

But there are many things like this, dear friends, not just ashtrays. You have so much in your homes, and you see much, much more besides, which you can’t yet possess today, because you have not managed to work for all of this, so that you have the money for it. But there are so many wonderful things that human hands really have made here. They know how to use their bodies properly for this; but should this be everything? Has the body been fully and completely made use of after this? Is all of that enough, just as when human beings say about themselves: “Eating and drinking keeps body and soul together?” And they just murmur this to themselves: “If only I can eat, I have everything!”

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No, friends, that is not everything; that is not complete nourishment; that only gets as far as maintaining the body. God has also taken thought for this, in that he has lavished so many of his fruits on us. He gave us seeds, we scattered them – no, they

were already there. We have just worked the soil – his soil – and so this fruit grew and multiplied, and we harvest it and can feast on all of this.

But is that all then? No, friends, we still need much, much more; before all else we need good sense, so that human beings are reasonable with themselves. When this is the case for them, they will then be reasonable with their neighbour or they will at least call on them to be reasonable; they will enlighten them. Yes, then they already know something. They know that they are reasonable; they feel that human beings are not like them, in that they are always saying this to themselves and posing the question: “Why am I like this? Why aren’t human beings like this? Why are they different from me?” But there is still much more to say, my dear friends.

But let us think about what is most important today! Today, from today on, be truly thoughtful, think about your own self, that is, about yourself. And really ponder: think back over everything you have done. It is just like when you went to confession; when you had found a person with whom you could make your heart free of everything that had tormented it up to then. But now you must sort this out with yourselves; make yourselves free; prepare yourselves for the holy festival, and if you do that then... God, our father, will also give us a gift. (I’ve already said it three times.) And human beings never – rarely – accept the gift; they don’t think about it. They simply haven’t been aware of it.

If you sing the little song “Silent night, holy night” – just that one single song, my dear friends, what does it say to you? Is there truth in it? You didn’t need to know anything about Christ, about his birth, about all of that; just sing this one song. Everything is contained there! There are many more songs like this that we sing during the holy festival. And we can genuinely take joy in life if we have recognised what it contains. I know that you have known it from your childhood on. I don’t need to hand it out to you written down (*he rustles some paper*); no, you know it! That is also the easiest thing. It too has become the force, a force of habit: “I know it; I can sing it!” But what does this song contain? Have you also pondered on this? I’ll give you some good advice, my dear friends: please sing this song, “Silent night, holy night” together now! Then I won’t need to say anything more afterwards; this song contains everything – sing!

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(*Everyone present sings the song “Silent night, holy night” together*):

Silent night! Holy night!
All’s asleep, one sole light,
Just the faithful and holy pair,
Lovely boy-child with curly hair,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds first see the sight.
Told by angelic Alleluia,
Sounding everywhere, both near and far:
"Christ the Saviour is here!"
"Christ the Saviour is here!"

Silent night! Holy night!
God's Son laughs, o how bright.
Love from your holy lips shines clear,
As the dawn of salvation draws near,
Jesus, Lord, with your birth!
Jesus, Lord, with your birth!

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(Bruno Gröning continues)

My dear friends, how often have you heard it; how often have you sung this song – many people have dismissed it by saying: "That is a Christmas carol; it produces a Christmassy feeling and people only sing it at Christmas!" Who has truly reflected on this song, on every word, what it means for them, for every human being? Or do we also want to dismiss it like this, and do we also want to say: "It's a Christmas carol; yes, you hear it now and then!" I don't believe we do.

Let us want to be precise and let us want to follow this little song closely. And today, that is, during this Christmas time, during this Christmas celebration, just restrict yourself to this one, single little song and read each word really closely!

We have everything absolutely within our reach, and most human beings just cast it aside. They learn it by rote; they took it in *here (he points to his head)*, but still not *here (he point to his heart)*. I know, friends, that you do want to.

And it is precisely because I know this, that you really do want to take it into yourselves, for this reason I too have come at this time. And I have come here in good time. You still have a lot of time, many hours. But it is precisely for this reason that I have come, because I know it, and because there really is no road too long and no weather inhospitable enough. And that doesn't matter; I don't ask about it! I must simply be here, and I must really lead you so far that you take in everything that has been given to you from the outside *here*, in your hearts.

Then you will have a good feeling for it, and then you will have a much higher and greater knowledge at your disposal. Then you will have understanding for all this, that is, for your own life; for the sins that human beings commit, and for the fact that we have to make them right again. Just as a child in its parents' house, before – before a festival such as this, either before their own birthday or before the Saviour's birthday

– they are really good, and because of this they then receive here, from their earthly father, gifts and praise.

Yes, my dear friends, all the things we still have to make right! We ourselves also have to make right the things that our fellow human beings have done wrong, or is that not so?

Just compare – take your own family – let’s say, a family of five: the father works and the mother takes care of the family; then there are three children. One of these three children is naughty and destroys everything that his father has taken great care and pains over, that is, everything he has worked for, and his mother. Everything that the father has bought ...

(At this point the tape recording breaks off.)