

**4447**

**Whitefield, George, 1714-1770.**

**Christmas well Kept.**

**Boston, Kneeland & Green, 1739. 11 pp.**

**AAS copy.**



*Christmas well kept,*

AND THE

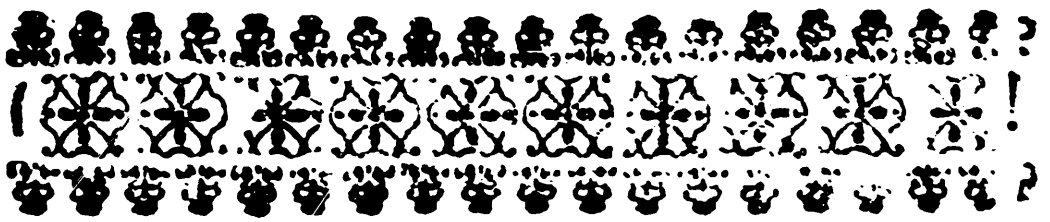
*Twelve Days well spent.*

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Printed and Sold by *S. Kneeland* and *T. Green*, in  
Queenstreet over against the Prison. 1739.







*Christmas well kept,*

A N D T H E

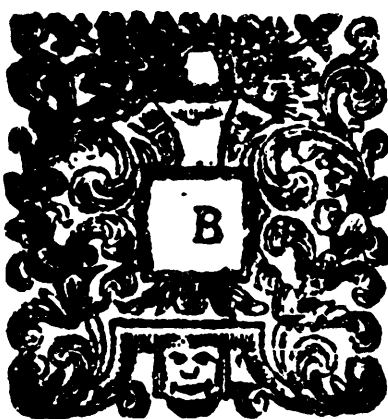
*Twelve Days well spent,*

*An Extract from*

*Mr. Whitefield's Journal.*

1738,9.

SUNDAY,  
Decem. 24.



Being Christmas-  
Eve, and hav-  
ing preached  
twice, I went  
in the Even-  
ing to Crooked-  
Lane Society,

where God enabled me to withstand se-  
veral Persons, who cavil'd against the  
Doctrine of the *New Birth*. I then went  
and expounded to a Company at Mr.

4 *Christmas well kept.*

*B---'s, in Little-Britain, and then went to another Love Feast in Fetter-Lane, and continued till near four in the Morning in Prayer, Psalms, & Thanksgiving, with many truly Christian Brethren; and my Heart was much enlarged & full of Love. God gave me a great Spirit of Supplication; Adored be his free Grace in Christ Jesus, Amen & Amen.*

MONDAY *Decem. 25.* About *four* I went and prayed and expounded to another Society in *Red-Cross-Street*, consisting of near two or three hundred People, the Room was exceeding hot: I had been watching unto Prayer all Night, yet God vouchsafed so to fill me with his blessed Spirit, that I spake with as great Power, as I ever did in my Life. My Body was weak, but I found a supernatural Strength, and the Truth of that Saying, *When I am weak, then am I strong.*

At *Six* I went to *Crutched-Friars* Society, and expounded as well as I could, but perceived my self a little oppressed with Drowsiness. *How does the corruptible Body weigh down the Soul! When shall I be deliver'd from the Burden of this Flesh!*  
Preached

Preached (never the less) *thrice*, and assisted in administering the *Sacrament* the same Day, without going to *Sleep*. God will make his Power to be known in me. — This Day 24 Years I was *baptized*. Lord, to what little Purpose have I lived! However, I seal'd my *Baptismal Covenant* with my dear *Saviour's* most blessed Body and Blood; and trust in his Strength I shall keep & perform it. Amen, Amen.

SATURDAY *Decem. 30.* Preached *nine* times this Week, and expounded near *eighteen* times, with great Power & Enlargement.---Blessed be God, I am every Moment employ'd, from Morning till Midnight.---There's no End of People's coming and sending to me, and they seem more and more desirous, like *new-born Babes*, to be fed with the *sincere Milk of the Word*.

What a great Work has been wrought in the Hearts of many within this *Twelve-Month*! Now know I, that tho' *Thousands* might come at first out of *Curiosity*, yet God has prevented & quickned them by his free Grace. O that I could be *humble and thankful*!

Glory be to God, that he fills me continually, not only with Peace, but also Joy in the Holy Ghost! — Before my Arrival. I thought I should envy my Brethrens Success in the Ministry, but blessed be God I rejoyce in it, and am glad to see Christ's Kingdom come, whatsoever Instruments God shall make use of to bring it about. --- Sometimes I perceive my self deserted for a little while, and much oppress'd, especially before preaching, but Comfort soon after flows in. — *The Kingdom of God is within me!* O free Grace in Christ!

SUNDAY, Decem. 31. Preached twice to large Congregations, especially in the Afternoon at Spittlefields. I had great Heaviness upon me, and was deserted before I went into the Pulpit; but God strengthened me so speak, so as to be heard by all.

I despair'd of speaking much more that Night, my Cold being very great; but God enabled me to expound to two Companies in Southwark; and I was never more enlarged in Prayer in my whole Life.

Those,

Those *Words* were much pressed upon my Soul, "*And the Power of the Lord was present to heal them*", and indeed I believe it was; for many were *pricked to the Heart* and felt themselves to be Sinners. *O that all the World knew and felt that!*

MONDAY, *Jan. 1.* Received the *Holy Sacrament*, preached *twice*, and expounded *twice*; and found *this* to be the *happiest New-Years-Day* that I ever yet saw. Oh, what *Mercies* has the Lord shewn me since this Day *Twelve Month!* And yet I shall see greater Things than these! *O that my Heart may be prepared to see 'em!* *O that my old Things may pass away and all Things become new!* --- Had a *Love Feast* with our *Brethren* at *Fetter-Lane*, and spent the *whole Night* in close *Prayer, Psalms* and *Thanksgivings*. God supported me without *Sleep*. *O that our Despisers were Partakers of our Joys!*

TUESDAY, *Jan. 2.* Staid at *Home* to receive those who wanted to consult me. ----- Blessed be God, from *seven* in the Morning, till *three* in the *Afternoon*, *People* came; some telling me what *God*

done for their Souls, and others crying out --- "What shall we do to be saved?" Being oblig'd to go out after this, I refer'd several till *Thursday*.--- God enabled me to give 'em Answers of *Peace*.-- How does he work by my unworthy Hands! His Mercies melt me down, O that I were thankful!

*THURSDAY, Jan. 4.* My Cold continued, and I fear'd it would prevent my Speaking, yet God enabled me to expound with extraordinary Power in a private Society; and then to preach at *Wapping Chapel*, so that the Word pierc'd the Hearers Souls! And afterward I expounded & prayed for an Hour and half, with great Power and Demonstration of the Spirit, and my Heart was full of God.

How immediately does Jesus Christ reward me for my poor Services! as soon as my daily Work is done, he says, "Enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord." He commands, & it is done.

*FRIDAY, Jan. 5.* Held a Conference at *Islington*, concerning several Things of great Importance, with seven true Ministers of Jesus Christ, despised Methodists, Whom

whom God brought together from the East and West, North and South.

What we were in Doubt about, after Prayer, we determined by Lot ; and every Thing was carried on with great Love, Meekness & Devotion. — We continued in Fasting & Prayer till three o' Clock, and then parted with a full Conviction that God was going to do great Things among us. *Oh that we may be any ways Instrumental to his Glory ! that he would make us Vessels pure and holy, meet for our Master's Use.*

*Expounded twice afterwards in London with great Power, and then was much enlarged for near an Hour in Prayer, in Fetter-Lane Society. — The Spirit of Supplication increases in my Heart daily ! May it increase ever, more and more.*

I did not find the Pity I ought, upon seeing a Brother full of Self-love. LORD, *enlarge my narrow Heart, and give me that Charity, which rejoices not in Iniquity, but rejoices in the Truth. — I perceived something a little bordering on Envy toward my Brother H. — I find more & more that true Humility consists in being submissive to those who are a little above — a little below us. “ Oh when shall*

