

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Christmas - The Prince of Peace

I expect there are not too many who remember the McGuire Sisters singing the Christmas Alphabet. It was some 62 years ago, back in 1958. "The Christmas Alphabet" was a little song for the children. It filled a child's mind of what Christmas was all about. It was a delightful little song but it is far better to think about the real reason for Christmas.

C	For the Christ Child who was born so long ago	
H	Holy One <i>"The angel answered and said unto her . . . that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God"</i>	Lk. 1:35
R	Redeemer <i>"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"</i>	1 Tim. 1:15
I	Immanuel Means "God with us"	Isa. 7:14
S	Saviour <i>"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."</i>	Lk. 2:11
T	Truth <i>"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"</i>	Jn. 14:6 1 Jn. 2:2
M	Manger <i>"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger"</i>	Lk. 2:7, 12, 16
A	Angel <i>"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."</i>	Lk. 2:10-11
S	Salvation <i>"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."</i>	Jn. 3:16

How the years have flown since I was a lad of fourteen years and heard “The Christmas Alphabet” for the first time. They were days of innocence, riding my bicycle and just being a little boy. I had forgotten about the song until tonight at supper there was mentioned, “the Christmas tree”, and across the years the song came to my mind again. I am now a 76 year old man, youth has long passed, middle age is long ago. It’s hard to recall myself when in my 60’s. Where has the time, the months and years gone? They have flown past me as a leaf in the autumn wind, seen for a moment and then gone, never to be seen again.

This life is a transient series of variable experiences passing each of us daily at the rate of 1440 minutes every day, minutes which we can never relive, happenings we can never change, and all the while life rushes on in dogged persistence. When those moments of pondering come on us all we begin to consider, “What is the purpose of life?”; “Why am I here?”; “What happens when time is no more?”; What happens me when I die?”

It is a possibility that as the Apostle Paul was in the prison he began to consider the finality of life. As he did so, the Spirit of the Lord revealed to him that He was not a being without purpose and that “circumstances” were not in control, but rather that the Sovereign God had a plan which He was working out.

We are informed that we have grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:2). Each clause breathes quietness of spirit as there is contemplated the richness of divine grace shown toward us, the fulness of divine peace granted to us, and the glorious reality that God is our Father. Never again will there be brought up the penal aspect of our sins and the Lord who suffered and died for us will never be sorry He did that. Looking back into eternity he reminds those who first heard and we who now read his letter that:

- a) We were “chosen” and “predestinated” (Eph. 1:4, 5).
- b) In the present we are before Him holy and without blame (Eph. 1:4), redeemed and have “forgiveness of sins” (Eph. 1:7).
- c) Then looking forward he informs every saint they are a functioning part in God’s great purpose for the glorification of Christ (Eph. 1:10-11).

What a panorama of sublime blessings.

Once again, this Christmas time is marred by a world of conflict and turmoil, protests erupt on every hand, a major pandemic has flown across the world like the unceasing ocean wave. In such a situation, how skeptical it seems to speak of “peace”. Why is there no peace in the world today? The Holy Scriptures inform us in plain language, “There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked” (Isa. 57:21); “But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt” (Isa. 57:20). Man in his rebellion and insolence against God is wicked, spurning the merciful grace of God in the eternal efficacy of the substitutionary sacrifice of His Son. Man without God has no peace for when Adam sinned peace was lost between man and His Creator, man and his fellow man (Eve) and man and creation. Everything was thrown into revolt so that man destroys nature, fights with other humans and is at enmity against God. When on the night the Lord was born the angels said, “On earth peace, good will toward men” (Lk. 2:14), it was because the Prince of Peace had come among men.

Many years ago the prophet Micah wrote, “This man shall be the Peace” (Mic. 5:5) and years later Paul the Apostle wrote, “He is our Peace?” (Eph. 2:14). Who was the man Micah was speaking about, who was the “He” Paul spoke about? It was none other than Christ the Prince of Peace. Well did Isaiah write, “the chastisement of our peace was upon Him” (Isa. 53:5). To the woman who in brokenness washed His feet with her tears He said, “Go in peace” (Lk. 7:50). What an encouragement for us in this world of undecidedness and confusion with many voices claiming to inform us of the way to God, The Lord of glory says to the sin sick soul, “Go in peace”. It’s the blessedness of knowing sins eternally forgiven.

When the apostles began their proclamations about the Lord they “preached peace” (Acts 10:36) for they were presenting the “gospel of peace” (Rom. 10:15) provided by the “God of peace” (Rom. 15:33). The man who hung on the middle cross and cried, “It is finished” (Jn. 19:30) is the Prince of Peace. He is Peace, He made peace, and those who depend on the finished work of God in punishing the Lord for our iniquities Paul says, “Having made peace through the blood of His cross” (Col. 1:20).

When an individual, irrespective of age, creed, culture, colour, or sex, lives in rejection of God in their lives, they live without peace for God will not give them peace (Jer. 16:5; Isa. 48:22). Indeed, God makes their pathway in this world hard, God has so declared (Prov. 13:15). It is hard because the Christ rejector has to continually shut their ears to the pleading of those who are saved, not being desirous to hear the words of salvation. Ofttimes they have to suppress the gospel they have known from early days holding a spite against a loved one who was not all they ought to have been. Sadly, the only one hurting is themselves for despite niceties said at their funeral, they will be in Hell suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

God speaks of those who in this life are alienated from God. They are aware that in themselves they are not morally fit to stand before the moral Governor of the Universe. Such have never understood or accepted the finished work of the Lord on the cross. They are forever seeking to do the best they can and ever wondering if they have done sufficient to enter Heaven.

Questions such as, "What will the balances of Heaven show? Have my good works outweighed my wrong doings? Blessed is the truth that salvation and peace with God does not depend on the plurality of my works but on the singular work of Divine persons at the place called Calvary. It was there on that centre cross God the Father executed upon the man Jesus the full penalty for our sins, my sins! The waves of divine justice crashed on the person of the Son of God. It was not just mental agony but the agonizing in His own body as He in three hours endured the darkness, the fierceness of God's anger against me for my sins, and bore it all. He said, "It is finished". Nothing more can be added to it. God's justice was fully satisfied and now the God of peace offers to the guilty soul perfect peace. It means that one now lives assured that when death occurs they will enter Heaven, no more wondering if my works are sufficient. Full dependence is placed on Christ, not Christ and my works, but Christ alone.

When an individual, no matter how long they have rejected God's offer of salvation, no matter how often they have sinned, God is ready and more than willing to give the gift of eternal life giving peace.

This Christmas time gifts will be given, many of those to whom they are offered will gratefully take them and the gift shall be theirs. God offers salvation, but the individual must accept or reject. For those who accept then God says, "Go in peace".

. . . Rowan Jennings



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