

**12-23-18**

**WHY WE DON'T HAVE PEACE AND GOOD THIS CHRISTMAS**

When I think of the biblical story of the birth of Christ, I think of the declaration of the angels when they appeared to the lowly shepherds. Note they said:

Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Luke 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

On earth PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

This is what God wanted Christ to bring to this planet.

My question is why is there not peace?

Why is there not good will?

This morning I want to talk to you about this declaration and why we do not see men having the peace, the good will, on earth?

**WHY WE DO NOT HAVE PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD WILL**

When I was a child my grandfather used to set up trains under the Christmas tree. In those days we used to decorate the tree with tinsel.. which was fine strips of stands of aluminum sheets or lead sheets. Today it is made of plastic. But back then as kids we loved to take the tinsel and strand it across the train tracks and watch it spark and fizzle and burn.

Now the reason there is not peace on earth and good will is because our lives are like the tinsel across the Railroad tracks. We are all frazzled and our lives are being short circuited.

Tis the season to be busy, flustered, tense, hyper, stressed out, and like the tinsel across the railroad tracks.

If Christmas is such a holy time of the year, why do do many people kill themselves?

Frustrated, no money, gifts, etc.

Frustrated, people go in dept for the year.

Everyone to see and the demands of the family.

How often Christmas is a time to frustrate ourselves and one another.

My wife went to the store recently and a lady looked at her and remarked, you are the only one I have seen smile all day! You look like you're happy.

She said, I am, it is because God answered my prayers.

Did not Jesus say,

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Jesus also said,

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Tempers flare up people get angry at one another.  
All in the name of celebrating Christ's birth.

DID NOT THE ANGELS SAY: He came to give peace on earth and good will toward men???

Luke 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Why is it, at a time of the year when there should be peace and blessing we find none?

Isn't there something wrong?

Did not the angels announce when Christ came into the world He would be:

A Saviour

A King

One who would bring us joy and gladness.

One who would bring us Peace and good will.

One who would bring us truth.

One who would bring us deliverance.

One who would be a light that would shine in darkness.

Why then do we find ourselves frustrated?

Driving ourselves into a frenzy?

Getting sick and hyper?

Finding that there are more demands on us than we can bear.

Why is it we allow ourselves to be frustrated and tense and over anxious?

Why is it that we don't have this peace?

Why is it that we don't find ourselves having this joy, good will, etc.?

Let me tell you why.

We find ourselves in this season where we say we are celebrating Christ's birth doing everything but dwelling in His presence and truly worshipping Him.

In a season that we say we set aside to remember the birth of our Lord, we find ourselves doing everything but meditating on His greatness. We find ourselves doing everything but worshipping Him

We find ourselves doing all kind of things but have no time for prayer, Bible reading, singing, meditation, and simply dwelling in His love and presence.

## NEWS FOR YOU:

He is still in heaven.  
He is still on the throne.

God is not in heaven running around like a chicken with His head cut off.

The Christmas play this year is about Charlie Brown finding himself depressed because he doesn't know what Christmas is all about.

Let me say, Christmas, as well as everything in your life should be all about Jesus Christ.

WHAT SHOULD BE A SEASON OF JOY TURNS INTO A SEASON OF TENSION AND FRUSTRATION, AND WE BECOME LIKE THE TINSEL ACROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS.

Frustrated shoppers.  
Frustrated parents.  
Frustrated Church members.  
Frustrated Children.  
Frustrates people who are pushed to the edge and look like they have been plugged into the light socket and fried to a frazzle.

We are like the tinsel from the tree and laid across the tracks of the electric train. Our lives are short circuited, frazzled, and burnt up.

A lot of people are like the TINSEL, all tensed up and smoke coming out their ears.

ANSWER: Learn to dwell in His presence this Christmas.  
Learn to take time to dwell in His presence and enjoy who He is.  
Take time to meditate.  
Take time to pray.  
Take time to worship Him.  
Why not take time to have a little cottage prayer meeting.  
Why not take time to sing around the Christmas tree? ETC.

MOST IMPORTANT, DON'T BE ROBBED OF THE BLESSING OF DWELLING IN HIS PRESENCE THIS CHRISTMAS:

A few suggestions on how to prevent yourself from being frustrated frazzled and BE LIKE THE TINSEL ELECTRIFIED ON THE RAILROAD TRACK OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:

Fizzle frazzle, and burnt out.

Why do people not have what Jesus came down to earth to give us?  
Why do we not have peace and good will?

***I. ONE REASON WE DON'T HAVE PEACE AND GOOD WILL IS BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT UNGODLY PEOPLE COULD HAVE ON US.***

No doubt this is a busy time of the year.  
When people are busy they get short tempered, frustrated, and angry.

People can really frustrate you. Don't let them.

There is a great example in the Bible of one of God's servants who got frustrated with the people that he had to deal with in his life.

Elisha The Prophet:

II Kings 3:10 And the king of Israel said, Alas! that the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab!

II Kings 3:11 But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may inquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.

Now, Jehoram was the son of Ahab and Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, and they came to inquire of the Lord. Elisha had little respect of Jehoram and this is why he was annoyed that he even came to him for help.

II Kings 3:13 And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab.

II Kings 3:14 And Elisha said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee.

II Kings 3:15 But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him.

Elisha felt his head getting fried on the railroad tracks of the season so to speak.

Elisha was upset.

Elisha was frustrated.

Elisha didn't like Jehoram's attitude. BLAMES GOD RIGHT AWAY.

King Jehoram was Jezebels son and Elisha didn't like him at all.

Now he finds himself in a position where he was not in the mood to pray.

Wasn't in the mood to dwell in the presence of God.

PEOPLE CAN ROB YOU OF YOUR SPIRITUALITY.

PEOPLE CAN ROB YOU OF THE CHRISTIAN SPIRIT, Forget the Christmas spirit.

WHAT WE NEED IS THE CHRISTIAN SPIRIT.

People who rebel against the Lord can rob you of your peace, joy, and the good that God wants for you.

Answer:

For Elisha it was CALL ME A MINSTREL.

Godly Music had a soothing effect on the spirit of Elisha.

Music could help him be refreshed in his spirit and be in a proper frame of mind to worship and dwell in the presence God.

Reason:

1. Good music is orderly, so too heaven is an orderly place.
2. Good music is peaceful so too heaven is a place of peace.
3. Good music has good harmony: So too, heaven is a place where everyone is in harmony with God.
4. In good music all tension is resolved in beautiful cadences.  
Heaven is a place where all things are planned by the father and are worked out for the good for them that love God.

IF WE ARE GOING TO DWELL IN GOD'S PRESENCE WE NEED TO GET THESE VIRTUES INTO OUR LIVES.

Order, harmony, peace, resolution, etc.

When people will rob you of these virtues.

Use whatever tools God makes available to you, to draw your mind and spirit to God.

WHEN YOU DO NOT GET THESE VIRTUES IN YOUR LIFE AND YOU ALLOW PEOPLE TO FIZZLE AND FRAZZLE YOUR LIFE YOU BECOME LIKE THE TINSEL ON THE RAILROAD TRACK.

ELECTRIFIED, FRAZZLED, AND FRIED.

***II. ANOTHER REASON WE DON'T HAVE THE PEACE AND JOY AND GOOD WILL THAT CHRIST WANTS TO BRING US IS BECAUSE OF OUR SCHEDULES WHICH EXCLUDE THE LORD.***

Luke 10:40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

Luke 10:41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

Luke 10:42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

***1. LIFE INVOLVES A SERIES OF CHOICES:***

MARY HATH CHOSEN THE GOOD PART: She chose to be with the Lord.

The reason you become like the Tinsel on the railroad track is because your life was never designed to carry the load of electricity that you're trying to carry.

You only have a certain capacity.

You can only do so many things in your schedule.

When you try to place things in your schedule you cannot do, nor were you meant to do, then you frustrate yourself and others.

Watch the tinsel wiggle, and fry and jiggle, and jangle, and jump and fry and cook and bake.

Looked like MARTHA IN THE KITCHEN.

James 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Busy schedules:            There are only so many hours in the day.  
                                      There are only so many things you can do.  
                                      There are only so much you can accomplish.

When you find yourself getting frustrated and frazzled, when you find yourself feeling like the tinsel on the R.R. Track, it could be because you are choosing the wrong things in your schedule.

Get sick, wind up in the hospital, what does it matter?

The world goes on with or without you.  
Better part to choose to dwell in His presence.  
Enjoy the Lord.  
Get His peace, contentment, and love in your heart.

### ***III. ANOTHER REASON WE DON'T HAVE THE PEACE, JOY, AND GOOD WILL CHRIST CAME TO GIVE US IS BECAUSE OF IGNORANCE.***

John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

John 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

John 4:26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

Everyone has an opinion when it comes to religion and the Bible and the things of God.

Most people's opinions are not worth a bean.

Jesus said to this Samaritan, you worship you know not what.

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

We need to get the right source.  
Salvation came through the Jews.  
All the Apostles were Jews.  
Every writer of the Bible was a Jew.  
Jesus was a Jew.

WHEN WE GET SAVED WE BECOME SPIRITUAL CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM BY ADOPTION.

BECAUSE THE JEWS REJECTED THEIR MESSIAH, THE GENTILES GET TO BE PARTAKERS OF THE NEW COVENANT.

We owe a dept to the Jews. Jesus himself said,

SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS.

If Israel held an election and voted to make Christ their King, Christ would be obligated, to come back and take His rightful seat.

WHERE IS HE THAT IS BORN KING OF THE JEWS? He is the King of the Jews.  
They rejected him, and for that reason we are allowed to be his citizens.

IGNORANCE STOPS A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM THE BLESSING OF DWELLING IN HIS PRESENCE:

Ignorance about the Church.  
Ignorance about the Bible.  
Ignorance about salvation.  
Ignorance about His commands.  
Ignorance about standards of holiness.  
Ignorance about what they are to do.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Jesus said, if you only knew who I was you would ask of me and I would give you living water.

Go call your husband. People are ignorant about standards of morality.

Young people immorality.  
Old people adultery.  
IGNORANT:

Ignorant as to what God wants;

INVITATION:

GREAT COMMISSION:

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Amazing thing:

We are celebrating the Birth of our Savior and:

It is Christmas but we have no time for Church?

No time for the very Saviour that came to give us this peace on earth.

Who came to give us food will for mankind.

We allow ourselves to become like the tinsel:

PEOPLE FRY US.

BUSY SCHEDULE FRIES US.

IGNORANCE CAUSE US TO SIZZLE.

Tinsel was not designed to lay across the tracks and carry the load that was being placed in and through it.

When you find yourself frazzled and fizzling it is because you are trying to carry a load you were never designed to carry.

The Lord says to you MARTHA, MARTHA.

You are over anxious about many things, one thing is needful, get off the tracks and stop frying yourself. Mary, chose a better place to park herself.

Mary parked herself at the feet of Jesus. Will you?

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Luke 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

This Christmas, do you have peace, good will, and joy, or are you like the tinsel on the railroad tracks?

GET OFF THE TRACKS FOR GOODNESS SAKES BEFORE YOU FRY.

Jesus said my yoke is easy and my burden light.

Look, we are in the world but we are not part of the world.

The truth is the same problems, trials, and burdens that fry people, frazzle people, cause us to become like the tinsel across the railroad tracks can become an opportunity to exhibit the love and radiance of Christ.

Think about this, we are not to be like the tinsel.  
We are to be like light bulbs to this world.

The same trials and problems that frazzle and fry people should be used in our life to give light to others.

Isn't this what happened to Paul at Phillipi?

He became a shining light.

Take a thin fragile piece of metal and isolate it from the elements of the world. Separate it under glass, and create a vacuum around it, and the trials that fry so many people can energize that thin metal to radiate a glow and a light.

Is not Christmas a time when people like to light up their life and houses with colorful lights?

Either you can be like the tinsel that fries.  
Or you can be like a beautiful light bulb that glows.

Jesus came to give you peace, joy, and good will.  
If you don't have it, it is because:

You are letting people rob of that peace.  
Because you are filling your life with a schedule that excludes Him.  
Because you are ignorant of His ways and His will for you.