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Of His Kingdom There Shall Be No End

A century ago, men were following with bated breath the march of Napoleon and waiting feverishly for news of the war. And all the while in their own homes, babies were being born. But who could think about babies? Everybody was thinking about battles. In one year, there stole into a world a host of heroes. Gladstone was born in Liverpool, England, and Tennyson at Somersby. Oliver Wendell Holmes was born in Massachusetts. The very same day of that same year Abraham Lincoln drew his first breath in Old Kentucky, and music was enriched by the birth of Felix Mendelssohn in Hamburg. But nobody thought about babies. Everybody was thinking about battles. Yet, which of the battles of 1809 mattered more than the babies that were born in 1809? We fancy that God can only manage His world through the big battalions of life, when all the while He is doing it through the beautiful babies that are being born into the world. When a wrong wants righting, or a truth wants preaching, or a continent wants opening, God sends a baby into the world to do it. And where do you find God on Christmas? In a manger. A baby was born at the heart of the Roman Empire, the Roman Empire would crumble and fall, but that baby, who would become a man, and in giving His life would birth a Kingdom that would never end! Frank W Boreham, Mountains in the Midst, 1909.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7

And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.
Luke 1:33



Cousin Leroy

The teacher was helping Leroy Jr. put on his cowboy boots. He asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on. Finally, when the second boot was on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost cried when he said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet. He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. And once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. No sooner than they got the boots off he said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear 'em." Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry, but she mustered up the grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again. Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?" He said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of the boots."

Faithful Husband

The man's wife had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months, yet he stayed by her bedside every single day. One day, when she came to, she motioned him to come closer. As he sat by her, she whispered, eyes full of tears, "You know what? You have been with me all through the bad times. When I got fired, you were there to support me. When my business failed, you were there. After my car accident, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you stayed right here. When my health started failing, you were still by my side. You know what?" "What dear?" he asked gently smiling as his heart began to fill with warmth. "I think you're bad luck."

SIGNS YOU'RE OVERDOING THE HOLIDAYS

- ~ Hundreds of volunteers have started to stack sand-bags around you.
- ~ Doctor tells you your weight would be perfect for a man 17 feet tall.
- ~ You are responsible for a slight but measurable shift in the earth's axis.
- ~ You spill more food on you than the local soup kitchen dispenses.
- ~ Paramedics bring in the Jaws of Life to pry you out of the EZ-Boy.
- ~ The amount of potatoes you ate set off another famine in Ireland.
- ~ Your "Old Elvis Super-Belt" won't even go around your waist.
- ~ You receive a Sumo Wrestler application in your e-mail.
- ~ You set off 3 earthquake seismographs on your morning jog.
- ~ Pricking your finger for blood sugar testing only yielded gravy.
- ~ That rash on your stomach turns out to be steering wheel burn.
- ~ Your wife wears a life jacket at night in your water-bed.
- ~ Representatives from the Butterball Hall of Fame called twice.
- ~ It looks like the left-overs are gonna last until Easter.
- ~ A guest quotes the Biblical passage from the feeding of the 5,000.
- ~ The bathroom scales display "ONE AT A TIME PLEASE".



The Empty Chair

Pastor Billy R Douglas

I wrote this article a few years ago and we have heard from so many people that have been touched by it that I felt lead to share it again this year...I pray that it will be a blessing to you.

And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

2 Samuel 12:22-23

The words of King David no doubt strike a chord in the heart of each one of us. He was mourning the death of his child. He had wept, fasted, prayed to God...but the child died anyway. Yet during this hard time in his life David found a truth to hold on to...a peace that can only come from the Lord. As we gather with our family and friends for Christmas there will be an empty chair or chairs around the table that serve to remind us of loved ones who have went home to be with the Lord. As I thought on this the Holy Spirit brought something to mind that was a comfort to me and I pray that it in some way will comfort you as well. Just as there are empty chairs around our table as we gather, there are empty chairs around that great table in Heaven...those chairs await you and me. And just as King David said...we cannot bring our loved ones back to us but we can most assuredly go to them! If we keep our faith and our trust in Jesus Christ we can have the comfort of knowing that one day in the portals of Heaven we will once again gather around the table with our loved ones. I want to share a poem that I found recently. I am not sure who wrote it but I knew as soon as I read it that the Lord wanted me to share it with you...

Time cannot heal the emptiness

Or fill the empty chair

The one that's in the family room

I see it empty there

Or the chair that's at the table

Where together we would dine

Although I sit there still

The only hands that pray are mine

Still I give thanks to God each day

I pray this prayer comes true

You save an empty chair for me

When I come home to you

I know that the holidays are hard and bring much grief to so many. I have even heard people say that they "hate the holidays" because of the pain of missing loved ones who have passed on. Trust me when I tell you that those who have gone home to be with the Lord would not want us grieving ourselves to death because of their passing. They are happy with the Lord...happier than they ever were in this old world. And they would want us to be happy as well. Take comfort in the fact today that even though they cannot come to be with us in this world and once again fill their empty chair, we will one day take our place at that great marriage supper in Heaven and fill the empty chair that awaits us there.

Not long after writing this article I preached a sermon at VOTL by the same name "The Empty Chair". If you or someone that you know would like to have a copy on CD we will send it to you free of charge by simply writing us and letting us know.

Merry Christmas and may the LORD Bless and keep you is our prayer. Pastor Billy R Douglas

**“Don't Let Distractions Cause You To Miss Your Blessing”**

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. 33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God. Matthew 14:22-33

People often wonder...“Why didn't God help me?” “Why didn't God answer me?” “Where was God when I needed him?” Often the answer to these questions is that we allowed ourselves to become distracted. Some may say, “No not me...I prayed”, “I sought after God”, “I did what I was supposed to do” and nothing changed. Well then I would like to ask the questions...What made you stop praying? What made you stop seeking God? What made you stop doing what you were supposed to do? Could it be it was because you saw no results taking place, in other words you were distracted by what was not happening. Blessings, faith, and answers are often missed because of distractions. You start out strong and mighty. Your mind is made up that I'm going to wait on God until my change come. But then you realize time is moving on and it seems like nothing still is happening. In fact, it seems like things are getting worse and the small thought “maybe this is not God's will for me” or “maybe God is not with me” creeps in. Once the first distraction takes root, it causes you to take your eyes off of the Lord God Almighty that you are waiting on and instead place your eyes on the situation which seems all so wrong. The more you look at it the more it grows until it now seems bigger than God. Don't be fooled, a distraction does not always have to be a problem or a situation that seems to be getting worse. Sometimes it can be a situation that seems all so right...“I know he's not saved but I believe he really loves me” “I know this job is going to keep me from church but I'll now be able to pay all of my bills” “I know I shouldn't be hanging around those old friends but I'm tired of being by myself” These distractions are going to cause you to miss out on the things God has for you and leave you asking yourself why didn't God help me? God was helping you, but you became distracted before it became manifested. Let's look at the book of Matthew chapter 14. We find the disciples in a ship that was caught in a storm. They see Jesus walking on water towards them. Peter yells out Lord if this is you let me walk on the water and come to you. He receives the answer “come”. Now let's focus on the 30th verse - But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. The 29th verse tells us that Peter actually walked on the water until he began to look at the boisterous winds and waves. His eyes were taken off of Jesus, he became afraid and then started to sink. Peter became distracted with what was going on around him instead of continuously focusing on Jesus. It's only when you truly come to trust God that you will be able to overcome distractions. However many of us never take the time to learn how to trust God. We see him as a genie in the bottle that's supposed to grant us our every desire. We must learn how to develop faith in the bible and come to know him as the God who is there. The question should not be how can I trust God but rather a strong acclamation-it's God I Trust! No matter what I see, hear or feel...I will trust God. What blessings are in stored for the person that comes to the place of fully trusting God. The storms of life will surely come but let me ask another question...Who is God to you? Is he a god who runs from problems or does he hide himself because he doubts himself? Is he a god that does not know how to help you or maybe your situation took him by surprise and he must now figure out what to do. Of course not, remind yourself from Luke 1:37 - For with God nothing shall be impossible Psalm 84:11 - For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. We can't afford to get distracted, but if we do remember this - God's mercy endureth forever. God gladly waits to put you back on the right path. God wants to bless you...He wants to help you...He wants to heal you...He longs to answer you...God has so much in stored for you. So don't let distractions cause you to miss out on the things God has just for you.

Until next time, let your light shine for Jesus! Evangelist Mike Heltsley

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Yes! Follow the Science!

Pastor Steven Huston

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” Matthew 24:35

Presidential candidate Joe Biden has frequently said, “We will follow the science!” The problem is that contemporary science, **when it deviates from Biblical truth, is as dangerous as Voodoo incantations** and destroys rather than heals. Mr. Biden also claims that he will heal our nation; but as I just alluded to, the Left’s “science” destroys rather than heals. There are many kinds of science: biological/medical, psychological, economic, political, and philosophical, etc. Whenever any “science” leaves God’s designated way we can expect confusion, chaos, corruption, and catastrophe. “Contemporary science” of the late 1700s (and dated back to ancient Egypt) included the barbaric practice of bloodletting and leeches. “Following the science” of that day was responsible, at least in part, for the death of America’s first president, George Washington, as they drained from him 40-55% of this precious life source within 12 hours. The Bible tells us that the blood is “the life of all flesh;” the Bible would suggest caution where “contemporary science” rushed in. A more current example can be seen in this political cartoon from The Jewish Press: *Two vans are careening around a mountain bend; the first one is a van that has SCIENCE painted on the side of it; the second van has U.S. ECONOMY printed on its side. Hot on the SCIENCE van’s trail, the second vehicle’s driver is saying “Follow that van!” The problem being that the SCIENCE van has broken through the guard rail and its driver is saying, “Oops.”* The Left’s contemporary science doesn’t make sense to most conservatives and even less so to Bible-believing Christians (as if there is any other kind?). Unfortunately, the longer that the Left’s contemporary “science” is upheld and heralded, society—including parts of the church—buys into it; and such belief destroys any nation rather than heals it. They, like Satan, promise prosperity but it delivers poverty; promise healing but promotes brokenness; promise freedom but delivers bondage. Here are a few of the areas in which the Left says that they follow the science; but in reality, they follow themselves, turning from God’s truth to follow a path of despair and destruction. As they gain power, they push their “science” on us in the name of tolerance and a promise for a better tomorrow. The following verses are but a sample of God’s absolute Truth contradicting man’s fake, contemporary “science.”

Evolution (Gen. 1-2; Ps. 146) LGBTQ – including hormone altering drugs and operations on even children (Gen. 1:27; Matt. 19; Lev.) Masking, Isolating, and social distancing the healthy instead of the sick (Lev.) Globalism/Communism/Socialism and the Green New Deal (these are NOT sustainable) (Prov. 1:10-19; Rev.; 2 Thess. 2) Climate change will destroy the earth (Gen. 8:22; 2 Pet. 3:10-12) Critical Race Theory (Acts 17:26; John 3:16-19; Col. 3:9-11) Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Having left Biblical truths behind and no longer being a thinking people, our society is easily manipulated, led, and corralled by their feelings; this is too often the case for the Right as well as the Left. Often when these opposing sides are confronting one another it is difficult for a bystander to tell who is who by their actions, volume and tone of voice. Many viewpoints today don’t hold up to scrutiny nor do they hold water if carried out to their logical conclusion. It’s important to know why we believe what we believe and that the “why” is founded upon unchanging truth, not on man’s ever-changing “contemporary science.” Believers are falsely accused of denying science; the simple fact is “Christian faith encourages learning. Many universities were started at the initiative of godly men who desired an institution of sanctified learning. True godliness promotes scholarship, and true science is in strict adherence to the Word of God.” (Family Worship Bible Guide – 1 Kings 4) **Each of the above “contemporary science” points runs contrary to instruction found in God’s Word.** It’s sad when Christian schools of higher learning trade the Truth of God for Satan’s lie. Our goal should always be to fear God rather than man. Even as Leftists rewrite history to fit their globalist agenda, they rewrite the sciences to propel their plots against God, against man, and against intelligent thinking. As we listen to what others have to say, let us compare it to what God’s Word says, making that our guide to Truth and road sign to follow. Proverbs 16:25 warns, **“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”** **Know Truth and know freedom; no Truth and no freedom.** When looking for direction Solomon puts it bluntly: **“Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”** **No matter how** they dress it up, anything running contrary to the Word of God is evil. **So yes; let’s follow the real science. Let’s look to the Word of God. Truth alone will put us on the right path and heal this land.**



Vonnie's Homemade Chocolate Fudge

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 1 stick butter
- 1/4 cup light corn syrup
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/3 cup cocoa

Mix cocoa and sugar, then stir in milk in a saucepan. Add syrup and cook until it forms a soft ball in cold water, then add butter and vanilla. Beat with a mixer until it thickens and almost set. Pour into buttered dish. Cool until firm and cut into squares.

No Bake Orange Balls

- 1 (12oz) package vanilla wafers, crushed
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1/2 cup orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar, for coating

Combine the vanilla wafer crumbs and 1 cup powdered sugar in a mixing bowl. Add the butter to the crumb mixture and blend in well. Stir in the thawed orange juice concentrate; add vanilla and nuts. Mix with your hands until all the ingredients are well blended. Shape the mixture into 1 inch balls. Roll balls in powdered sugar. Store covered.

Broccoli Casserole

- 16 oz. frozen broccoli florets
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 box of Rice A Roni, chicken flavor
- 2 sticks margarine
- 1 sleeve Ritz crackers

Cook broccoli until partially done. Drain. Put in a 9x13 greased baking dish. Pour one stick melted margarine over broccoli. Cook rice as directed, drain and mix with broccoli. In a saucepan melt cheese and soup. Pour over broccoli mixture. Crumble crackers over top. Pour melted stick or margarine over crackers. Bake on 350 for 35 minutes.

Green Beans Wraps

- 4 cans whole green beans
- 1 lb. bacon
- 1/2 stick butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- Onion salt
- Garlic salt
- Salt
- Pepper
- Oil

Saute green beans in oil, sprinkle with salt, pepper, onion salt, and garlic salt. Set aside. Cut bacon in half. Wrap 3 to 5 green beans in bacon strip, hold with toothpick. Place them in backing dish. Mix butter and brown sugar to make a sauce. Pour over green beans. Bake at 350 for 30 to 45 minutes until bacon is done.





Trust The Good Shepherd

George Whitten

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. John 10:11-15

Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd. He described his followers as sheep. Why? Wolves hunt in packs. Their aggression, power, and cunning, are no match for the sheep they hunt to devour. When wolves gather to form packs they are incredibly vicious and effective predators. Sheep graze in the fields, completely defenseless except for their shepherd whom they must trust completely for protection, not wandering far from the shepherd, but abiding close to Him. The "cancel culture" is now in full overdrive. Those who wish to destroy our witness are on the hunt, and we're increasingly surrounded by hungry wolves who would overwhelm and silence us. Don't be afraid. The Lord is our Shepherd and He is not a "hireling" but an utterly faithful caretaker for His sheep. We know because He has already laid down His life for us. Packs of wolves on the hunt will not frighten Him, but will be frightened by Him. His rod and His staff will comfort us as we abide close to our Good Shepherd. He will even prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies! www.worthydevotions.com

Trials With Benefits

Pastor Loren Larson

The trials that the believer faces cover a wide gamut of experiences and situations. No trial is a pleasant experience! Not all trials are the fault of the believer. However, God does have a purpose behind each and every situation that He allows to enter into our lives. How we face these multi-colored situations is extremely important. If we handle them correctly, we have the potential of passing successfully through the trial, and as well, walking away with wonderful benefits. One of the major benefits of a trial passed through properly is that of an enhanced Christian character. God has the ability to work endurance, long-suffering, hope, and love in us, the like we have never experienced before. As we keep our eyes on Christ and continually trust in the provision that has been secured through His finished work of the cross, we can be assured of receiving all kinds of substantial benefits. As Israel of old, we too will pass through the battleground of difficulty and pick up the spoils of war left behind by the defeated enemy. So be encouraged! Whatever you are passing through right now has the potential of becoming one of the greatest blessings you will ever receive. 2 Chronicles 20:25 - And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

No Room In The Inn

How sad those words must have been that night so long ago.
 No doubt they knocked on every door yet no mercy would one show.
 The wind so cold the night so dark for this husband and his wife.
 They traveled long they traveled far to bring forth this one life.
 They searched and searched until they found a stable where to stay.
 And on that night our Saviour born where oxen feed on hay.
 This babe would grow into a man a sacrifice to give.
 His life for man to save from sin and so that we could live.
 Though many years have come and gone the story is the same.
 No room for Him at Christmas time not even for His name.

Written by Billy R Douglas



Footsteps of SECRET PRAYER

It was **David Livingstone's** habit every birthday to write a prayer. On the next to the last birthday of all, this was his prayer: O, Divine One, I have not loved Thee earnestly, deeply, sincerely enough. Grant, I pray Thee, that before this year is ended I may have finished my task."

Says **R. E. Speer**, "It was just on the threshold of the year that followed that his faithful men, as they looked into the hut at Ilola, while the rain dripped from the eaves, saw their master on his knees beside his bed, in the attitude of prayer." He had died on his knees in prayer.

Samuel Rutherford was a man of prayer. Prayer brought the Savior near to him. When confined in jail for conscience sake he records in his diary, "Jesus came into my cell tonight, and every stone flashed like a ruby."

Stonewall Jackson was a man of prayer. Said he, "I have so fixed the habit in my mind that I never raise a glass of water to my lips without asking God's blessing; never seal a letter without putting a word of prayer under the seal; never take a letter from the post without a brief sending of my thoughts heavenward; never change my classes in the lecture room without a minute's petition for the cadets who go out and for those who come in.

James Gilmour, the pioneer missionary to Mongolia, was a man of prayer. He had the habit in his writing of never using a blotter. He made it a rule when he got to the bottom of any page to wait until the ink dried and spend the time in prayer. That kind of habit drives prayer right into all the chinks and corners of our lives like the mortar that holds the building stones together.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16

A Christmas Prayer

By Beth McLendon

Dear Lord,

We come before you to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We celebrate the miracle of God coming as a baby - coming to live among us,
coming to love us, and coming to show us the way to eternal life.

During this Christmas season, help us to experience the story of the birth of Christ as though it were the first time we ever heard it. Bring to our thoughts a sense of wonder and awe at what took place two thousand years ago.

Allow us to watch, as wise men who daily commanded great respect, humbly travel to a stable and kneel with gifts in hand before a baby who was Christ the King.

Let us hear the rustling animals and see the young couple who lovingly take turns holding our promise in their arms.

Help us to remember to live our life proclaiming the loving message of that night in our words and most importantly in our actions.

We magnify your Holy name this day and everyday.

Amen



A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Additional passages for Today: Ephesians chapter 5; Colossians 4:5-6 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Thought for Today: Redeeming the time speaking, singing, and wisdom are all things mentioned when we were given instructions to redeem the time. Reprove the wrong to redeem the time!

Story for Today: Sandi ran her brush through her long Auburn hair one final time and quickly placed the baseball cap on her head. Grabbing her keys and jacket she bounded out the door. Misty and Carol joined her in the long hallway as they began discussing the upcoming youth rally. Each of the girls planned to invite 3 friends. Robb, their youth pastor, had been discussing with their core group the need to reach out to some of the kids that don't really connect with a church home. This youth rally would be a great opportunity to not only share the gospel message with them, but let them see the joy and fun that comes with being blessed as a child of God. The three girls had put their heads together and had come up with 6 girls and 3 guys that they knew that hadn't been attending church that they thought might would like to join them for some weekend fun. And now they were going out to give the invitations along with their very own special treat they had made as a reminder of the special even. The girls paused in the lobby of their dorm to pray, asking God to bless their efforts. Misty did a double-take as she opened her eyes as they finished praying. She was astonished to see Tasha, one of the girls she had chosen walking towards her. She broke away from Misty and Carol and greeted Tasha quickly. After a brief chat, Misty realized that God was truly in the midst of all that was happening. Not sharing all that was going on, but enough for Misty to realize that Tasha was in need of a friend, the invite was made. Tasha was grateful for the invite and quickly accepted. She made plans to pick her up the following day for a chat and to go over details and the trio reconnected to continue the mission. As they headed out, Misty had a song in her heart as she praised God for the way that He had brought Tasha to them. By the end of the night, the girls had invited all 9 of their special guests; 5 said yes and 4 maybe. Carol was discouraged because all 3 she had asked were maybes€ and she just knew they were going to decline. As the girls discussed this, Sandi reminded Carol that they are supposed to be careful of their speech and how they think. and if we think negatively it will affect us mentally and God has commanded that we speak to ourselves in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs€ Realizing that this meant that they should use Gods Words in their speech, Carol quickly repented of the negative pity party she had been having. Instead of thinking about what might go wrong, the girls began to plan for things that they could do that would encourage these friends to make the choice that could change their lives. Praying specifically for the things mentioned that would hinder the individual was at the top of the list, then thanking God for putting that person on their mind and that He would draw them. Before the trio split up for the night, Carol thanked her friends for the encouragement and put a reminder on her phone to call her invitees in two days. Her heart felt so much lighter as she made her way to her room. Wisdom was such a blessing that she cherished in her closest friends. She knew that allowing the Holy Spirit in her life didn't mean that she would never be tempted to do wrong. The Holy Spirit having control of her life did ensure that when she did wrong God would make sure that she knew and that she had the opportunity to choose rightly and repent. She would continue to redeem the time.

Questions for Today: What are the words you speak or think to yourself? Do they agree with scripture allowing you to redeem the time? What is the most important thing that you do with your day? Do you allow the Holy Spirit to guide you?

Prayer for Today: Heavenly Father, Thank You for the gift of Your Son, our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Thank You for sending the Comforter to guide us and to help us have wisdom. In Jesus Name, Amen.



Persecuted But Not Forsaken

by Pastor Billy R. Douglas

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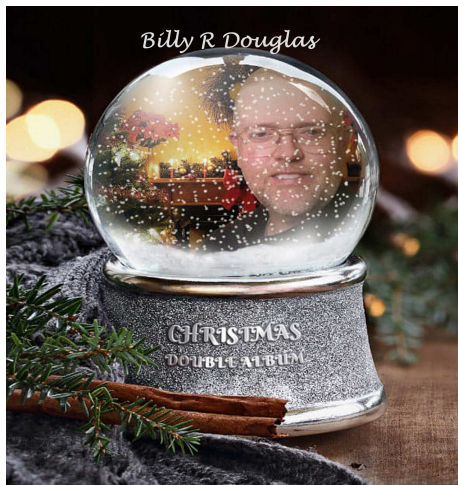
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November Featured Music CD (2009)

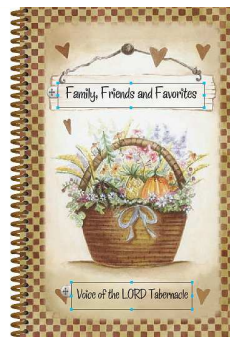
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