



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

Vol. 25 No. 12

December 2021



From The Manger To The Cross

By La Belle Rouge

From the throne to the manger through gates of a virgin's womb
From the manger to the cross from the cross beyond the tomb

From a life of truth and giving no needy were too vile
Man of tears acquainted with sorrow who taught the virtue of a smile

From a lowly Bethlehem stable his bed made among the beasts
To the temple where he taught on the day of the great Holy feast

From muddy waters of the Jordan he walked the shores of Galilee
Doing the work of his Father bringing light so the blind could see

From the tender Babe Of Bethlehem adored by both shepherds and kings
To the cruel cross at Jerusalem where salvation to all he brings

From poverty to reigning divinity now prophet, priest and king
And if you listen with open heart you can hear angels sing

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:10-14



Cousin Leroy

Leroy and Bubba were doing some carpenter work on a house. Bubba who was nailing down siding would reach into his nail pouch, pull out a nail and either toss it over his shoulder or nail it in. Leroy, figuring this was worth looking into, asked, "Why are you throwing those nails away?" Bubba explained, "When I pull a nail out of my pouch, about half of them have the head on the wrong end and I throw them away." Leroy in disbelief with a look of confidence on his face, said Bubba, Bubba, Bubba! Those nails aint defective! They're for the other side of the house!."

The Pastors Refreshing Sermon

The minister gave his Sunday morning service, as usual, but this particular Sunday, it was considerably longer than normal. Later, at the door, shaking hands with parishioners as they moved out, one man said, "Your sermon, Pastor, was simply wonderful -so invigorating and inspiring and refreshing." The minister of course, broke out in a big smile, only to hear the man add, "I felt like a new man when I woke up!"



Snow Days

A heavy snowstorm closed the schools in one town. When the children returned to school a few days later, one grade school teacher asked her students whether they had used the time away from school constructively. "I sure did, teacher," one little girl replied. "I prayed for more snow."

The Lesson

A boy asks his father to explain the differences among irritation, aggravation, and frustration. Dad takes out his cell phone and dials a number at random. When the phone is answered he asks, "Can I speak to Roger, please?" "No! There's no one called Roger here." The person hangs up. "That's irritation," says the dad. He picks up the phone again, dials the same number and asks for Roger a second time. "No, there's no one here called Roger. Go away. Don't call again." "That's aggravation," says Dad. "Then what's frustration?" asks his son. The father picks up his phone and dials a third time: "Hello, this is Roger. Have I received any phone calls?"

Who Are You?

A very dirty, grubby little boy came in from playing in the yard and asked his mother, "Who am I?" Ready to play the game, she said, "I don't know! Who are you?" "WOW!" cried the boy. "Mrs. Johnson was right! She said I was so dirty, my own mother wouldn't recognize me!"

Shipwrecked

Did you hear about the two guys who get shipwrecked? They end up on a deserted island with no food or fresh water. One guy is in despair, "We're going to die!!" The other replies, "Don't worry. I make \$100,000 each week." His companion says, "What difference does money make? We're going to starve!" The other answers, "You don't understand. I earn \$100,000 each week and I tithe. My pastor will find us."

*From the Pastor's Desk***The Little Snowflake**

Pastor Billy R Douglas

Faster and faster he fell to the ground, Not one little word not even a sound.
And although he wondered where he'd come to rest, He knew in his heart The Maker knew best.

Then all of a sudden he came to a stop, In a small little town on a lonely hilltop.
And there in the silence he still couldn't see, And thought to himself...why here? Why me?

Could this be a trial or maybe a test, Yet he knew in his heart The Maker knew best.
And there on that hill on the snow covered ground, He could hear the wind whistling and blowing around.

Then off in the distance he thought he could see, A shadowy figure walk...no limp past a tree.
A small little boy so lowly and meek, He wore not a smile but a tear on his cheek.

His hair was a mess his clothes were not much, And under his arm he carried a crutch.
And there in the silence the little boy sat, No mittens no coat not even a hat.

The snowflake then wondered but what can I do, He had no idea not even a clue.
LORD I wish I could help to make the boy glad, He seems so distraught so lonely so sad.

When all of a sudden a wind gust appeared, And tossed the little snowflake back up in the air.
Just for a moment then back to the ground, But just long enough that the boy looked around.

As he looked around he started to move, Making big snow balls first one and then two.
And when he had finished he had three in all, And stacked them together so round and so tall.

He then looked around for some sticks and some rocks, Then what did appear on that lonely hilltop?
The best looking snowman you ever did see, The little snowflake thought...THE MAKER USED ME!

As on the boys face he now saw a smile, He knew that the journey was worth every mile.
No matter the journey, the trial, or the test, He was right all along The Maker knew best.

(written by Billy R Douglas)

As I wrote this poem under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit I couldn't help but think *what a wonderful truth*. There are many times in our lives that we may have thought as the little snowflake did..."Why here? Why me?". But what a comfort to know that no matter where we are, no matter what we are going through He has promised us in His Word in Romans 8:28 "that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." What a MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE! To know that the God of the universe is mindful of us! So mindful that He even knows the very number of the hairs on our head!! Jeremiah 29:11 says "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." No matter what you are going through today take comfort in these promises. Knowing that He has a plan for you, knowing and trusting that *The Maker does indeed know best!*

Until next time may the LORD Bless and keep you is our prayer. Pastor Billy R Douglas



Christmas Is...

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

John 3:16-18 - 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. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

How do you explain the meaning of Christmas in just a few words? Well the best way I know is this: John 3:16 - 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. No one could outdo what God has done. No one could give a greater gift than God has already given. I would like for us to consider the meaning of Christmas and what it should mean to each and every one of us. Christmas means a lot of things to a lot of different people. To some it is- -a time of shopping and spending -a time of drinking and carousing -a time of traveling and entertaining But, what is the real meaning of Christmas? What message should it convey to every one of us? To me, Christmas is...

I. A TIME OF REMEMBERING Remembering the great love that God had for each and every one of us. He loved us so much, that He spared not His only Son that we might be saved. Remembering the uniqueness of His life, His teachings, His miracles, His prophesies, His death and His resurrection. Remembering all those humble but great people surrounding the Christmas story...people like Joseph & Mary, Zacharias & Elizabeth, Anna, Simeon, the shepherds, the wise men, etc. Secondly, to me, Christmas is...

II. A TIME OF LOVING People make a special effort to be a little kinder, a little more considerate of others, and a little more generous during the Christmas season. They get involved in such things as Christmas caroling, toys for the needy, meals for the misfortunate, etc. It is a time for reaching out to others with love and concern. God so loved the world-let us never forget that!!! In all of our preaching, teaching, evangelizing, etc. let us always remember that the motivation for all this is the love of God for lost sinners. He really cares about us. So should we care as He cares. So should we love, as He loves.

III. A TIME OF GIVING For God so loved the world, that He gave... Love cannot look with indifference on the hungry, and the sick, and the lonely, lost souls of this world. Love must give. God gave all He could give. He gave His only begotten Son. This gift was freely given, lovingly given, graciously given to all of us, who were undeserving sinners. Christ shared our human nature that we might receive His divine nature. Day by day, those who receive Him are being transformed into His image, until we all come into the full stature of the perfected children of God, washed in the blood of the Lamb.

IV. A TIME OF FORGIVING God was willing to forgive us. He was willing to show mercy to a sinful, lost, and dying world. Do we possess His forgiving spirit? Or, is our spirit a judgmental one, that looks down upon others? Is there someone we need to forgive today?

V. A TIME OF RESCUING God rescued us by His love and mercy. He saved us from perishing. Without Christ we are without life, and headed for an eternity without God-forever separated from the God who made us and longs to save us. He wants us to inherit eternal life. We are all descendents of a dying race. But for the grace of God, we would all likewise perish.

VI. A TIME OF CHANGING The Christ of Christmas changes us. He makes us new creatures. All things become new for us. We have new goals, new ideas, new direction, new hope. Christ changes people for the better. VII. A TIME OF REJOICING We are rejoicing in God's unmerited grace, in the release of forgiveness and rejoicing in a new life with a new mission So what does the coming of Christ into this world mean to you? Have you received Him as Lord & Savior? If not, I encourage you to come to Him now.

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

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Staving Off Slothfulness {SOS}

Pastor Steven Huston

As a teenager Acts 20:24 held a special attraction to me. I wanted to say with Paul, “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Of course at such a young age, and living in America, I had no inkling of what the fullness of this verse meant; and I still don’t, although I do see it much more clearly than I did. There are many around the world that faithfully live this verse out daily, by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. We, in America, know little of the persecution that our brothers and sisters face around the world; yet it is coming and we ought not to see it as some strange fiery trial. Jesus warned us that it would come; and, believers of every age have experienced its devastation to the body and quickening of the soul to draw nearer to Him who has saved us and claimed us as His very own. It’s the believer who has diligently and actively taken to heart the admonitions of Jesus to “Watch and pray,” and Paul’s “Awake to righteousness, and sin not” that are ready to stand in such times of trial, while the slothful professor is likely to waffle or justify his reactions in the face of trials, temptations, and tribulations. So how do we “stand having done all to stand in the evil day” instead of crumpling with sloth and apathy in that same day? There’s no denying that, much to our shame, the comparative ease that most Americans have had has bred a tendency to spiritual slothfulness or a cooling of our first love or a feigning and waning of faith. “Ah Lord God, help us!” shouldn’t this be our cry? Ought we not to call upon our God with an SOS to help us Stave Off Slothfulness and to actively grow, being rooted and built up in Christ Jesus? In our daily meeting this morning (9/1/21), American Decency Association’s founder and president, Bill Johnson, read from Banner of Truth’s Voices From the Past (a puritan devotional) in which Rev. Mr. Simmons (Puritan Sermons 1659-1689) shared three ways in which to “get rid of this unwelcome guest—spiritual sloth.”

1. “By faith—apply the promises of quickening. Promises are steel spurs that will reach the dull heart to draw out the corruption of sloth.” We know that God is able to and delights in keeping His promises, particularly to His own children. Remember that the Bible is full of promises, both for good and for bad; this reminder should move us to throw off sloth and put on obedience, claiming the blessings and avoiding the judgments which God has given. We desperately need God’s help; let us come to Him and proclaim, “Soul, God has promised I shall mount up with eagles’ wings, and God is able, true, and willing, therefore, I may be assured of his assistance.”

2. “Consider others that have gained the victory as your example (Heb. 12:1-3).” With the reminder to “Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. (Psalm 37:37)” Biblical examples of perseverance like Daniel, the three Hebrew children, Paul, the hosts from Hebrews 11, and others come quickly to mind. We can be encouraged and strengthened by the faithful histories of the Scottish Covenanters, the French Huguenots, and other believers of today who walk faithfully in our Savior’s way, who have said with Paul, “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. (Phil. 1:20)” Singing in the Fire by Faith Cook is a small book that will highlight more such examples that will serve to spur us on. These men and women who have gone before us are “fires to light our candles by.”

3. “Consider too how impossible it is for creeping snails to finish their journey’s end. Run that you may obtain (I Cor. 9:24). Don’t creep, but run, not indifferently, but industriously. Should we not serve God as actively as we ever did in the ways of sin and Satan?”

The days approaching are likely to be more challenging than we have ever known; we must draw near to God. We cannot afford spiritual slothfulness; with diligence and vigor may we spend more time in fervent, Spirit led prayer, meditation in the Word of God, and with all thanksgiving and praise remember that this world is not our home. Therefore, there ARE better days ahead.

Pastor Steven Huston - 103 N. Division Ave. Fremont, Michigan 49412



Redeemed

A.J. Gordon was the great Baptist pastor of the Clarendon Church in Boston, Massachusetts. One day he met a young boy in front of the sanctuary carrying a rusty cage in which several birds fluttered nervously. Gordon inquired, "Son, where did you get those birds?" The boy replied, "I trapped them out in the field." "What are you going to do with them?" "I'm going to play with them, and then I guess I'll just feed them to an old cat we have at home." When Gordon offered to buy them, the lad exclaimed, "Mister, you don't want them, they're just little old wild birds and can't sing very well." Gordon replied, "I'll give you \$2 for the cage and the birds." "Okay, it's a deal, but you're making a bad bargain." The exchange was made and the boy went away whistling, happy with his shiny coins. Gordon walked around to the back of the church property, opened the door of the small wire coop, and let the struggling creatures soar into the blue. The next Sunday he took the empty cage into the pulpit and used it to illustrate his sermon about Christ's coming to seek and to save the lost—paying for them with His own precious blood. "That boy told me the birds were not songsters," said Gordon, "but when I released them and they winged their way heavenward, it seemed to me they were singing, 'Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed!'" This is Christmas. And the message of these times is the song of those wild birds.

It's the song sung in every carol this season: Redeemed!

It's the meaning behind every gift given under the tree: Redeemed!

It's the Word the shepherds heard: Redeemed!

It's the assurance Mary received: Redeemed!

It's the star the Wisemen followed: Redeemed!

You and I have been trapped by sin, but Christ has purchased our pardon. We have been redeemed! Glory to God in the highest!! If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator; If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist; If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist; If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer; but our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

Look What Has Come To The World

In his 1942 devotional *Abundant Living*, E. Stanley Jones, Methodist doctor and missionary to India, writes: The early Christians did not say in dismay: "Look what the world has come to," but in delight, "Look what has come to the world." They saw not merely the ruin, but the Resource for the reconstruction of that ruin. They saw not merely that sin did abound, but that grace did much more abound. On that assurance the pivot of history swung from blank despair, loss of moral nerve, and fatalism, to faith and confidence that at last sin had met its match.

...But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: Romans 5:20

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. Isaiah 9:6



In The Midst Of It All

Pastor Nikki Corbin

Prior to my husband Scott's passing, I had been reading and contemplating Job 1:21 which says, "... the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." I had listened multiple times to the song sung by Tony Gore which references this verse and the story of Job. Our family had gone through multiple trials and God was teaching me to trust Him and praise Him no matter what. I had no idea how much worse things were about to get and how much more this verse would be needed in my life. The Lord truly did give me Scott. He was everything I had ever prayed for and more. I had waited on God to bring love into my life and I was so blessed and so thankful to have him. Not a day went by that I didn't let Scott know how deeply I loved him and how thankful I was for him. Even when we argued (yes, we argued sometimes), I still loved him and let him know it. I would tell the kids all the time that we were so rich, not because there was a penny in the bank (if it was after I paid the bills, there wasn't many pennies left), but because we had each other and between my husband and kids, I felt so rich. Money could not compare to the happiness I had with them. But the unthinkable happened, and happened so suddenly. Even though Scott was in the hospital, all was looking well until I received that first call that his heart had stopped. Then they were able to save him, though he was being kept alive by a machine. And I thought everything was going to be alright until I received that second phone call that his heart had stopped again, and this time, could not be saved. It's been a journey that I wouldn't wish on anyone. God's grace has been sufficient, and for that I'm thankful, but it doesn't mean that grief doesn't at times feel much heavier than I can bear - it does. Losing my spouse, my best friend, the other half of me, has got to be the hardest thing I've ever been through times a million. But in the midst of it all, God reminds me of Job 1:21. He gave me Scott and for whatever reason that I cannot see or understand, He took him. And yet, blessed be His name! I can't lose sight of God, who He is, and what He wants to do. I could drown in my sorrows, and there's days that I feel like I could. Or I can keep my eyes on Jesus, and what He wants to do in me and through me. There's a segment of the church world that focuses on what God can do for you and how He blesses you. Yes, God can bless His people and I believe He does often. But get to the place that you understand, whether you get or you lose, God is still worthy of all the praise. We worship Him not because of what He can do but because of who He is. And who He is does not change, even when you have experienced great loss. He's still the same, so praise His name! www.truthchapel.org - PO Box 1905 Spartanburg, SC 29304



Saturday December 11th @ 4:30 PM

Voice of the LORD Outreach Center 218 Hill Street

Outreach Center doors will be open @ 4:30 PM

The Livermore Christmas Parade starts @ 5 PM and passes in front of the Outreach Center.

Come join us for hot cocoa, Christmas cookies and the Christmas parade as we celebrate **Jesus** the reason for the season!



White Hot Chocolate

- 3 c. half-and-half, divided
- 2/3 c. white chocolate chips
- 3-inch cinnamon stick
- 1/8 t. nutmeg
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 1/4 t. almond extract

Garnish: whipped topping, cinnamon and candy canes

In a saucepan, combine 1/4 cup half-and-half, white chocolate chips, cinnamon stick and nutmeg. Whisk over low heat until chips are melted. Remove cinnamon stick. Add remaining half-and-half. Whisk until heated throughout. Remove from heat and add vanilla and almond extracts. Garnish with whipped topping, cinnamon and candy canes.

French Toast Croissants

- 1/3 c. milk
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 T. frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 4 croissants, halved lengthwise
- Garnish: powdered sugar

Stir milk, eggs and orange juice together in a shallow dish. Dip croissant halves into mixture, turning to coat both sides. Place in a greased skillet over medium heat; cook until golden on both sides. Dust with powdered sugar.

Eggnog

- 1/2 gal milk, divided
- 3.4oz pkg instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg

In a large bowl whisk together 3/4 cup milk and pudding mix until smooth. Mix in sugar, vanilla and spices until sugar dissolves. Stir in remaining milk. Chill before serving.

Pecan Coffee Cake

- 1-1/2 c. butter, softened and divided
- 1 c. sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 3 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 T. baking powder
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1 c. milk

Pecan Filling

- 1-1/2 c. brown sugar, packed
- 2 t. cinnamon
- 1 c. broken pecans

Blend one cup butter and sugar in a large bowl. Stir in eggs and vanilla; set aside. Mix flour, baking powder and salt in a separate bowl. Add flour mixture and milk alternately to butter mixture; stir well. Pour half of batter into a lightly greased and floured 13"x9" baking pan. for Pecan Filling: Mix together pecans, brown sugar, cinnamon in a bowl. sprinkle half of filling over batter. Top with remaining batter, then remaining filling. Melt remaining butter; drizzle over top. Bake at 375 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes



Company Breakfast Casserole

- 16-oz. pkg. frozen shredded hashbrowns, thawed and divided
- 1 onion, chopped and divided
- 1 lb. ground pork sausage, browned and drained
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 4-oz. can sliced mushrooms, drained
- 1/2 to 1 c. shredded Cheddar cheese, divided
- 1 doz. eggs, beaten
- 1-1/2 c. milk
- salt and pepper to taste
- Optional: garlic salt to taste

Spread half of the hashbrowns in a lightly greased 13"x9" baking pan. Layer ingredients as follows: half the onion, sausage, remaining onion, green pepper, mushrooms and half the cheese. In a separate bowl, mix together eggs, milk and seasonings. Pour egg mixture over top of casserole; top with remaining hashbrowns and remaining cheese. Cover with aluminum foil and refrigerate overnight. In the morning, bake, covered, at 350 degrees for 45 to 60 minutes. Uncover and bake an additional 15 minutes, or until golden and a knife inserted in center comes out clean.

Brown Sugar Glazed Bacon

- 1 lb bacon
- 1/3 cup (packed) brown sugar
- 1 tsp all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup pecans, finely chopped

Place a wire rack over a baking sheet. Arrange bacon slices on rack close together but not over lapping. Combine remaining ingredients in a bowl. Sprinkle mixture evenly over bacon. Bake on 350 degrees for about 30 minutes, until bacon is crisp and glazed. Drain on paper towel

Orange Biscuits

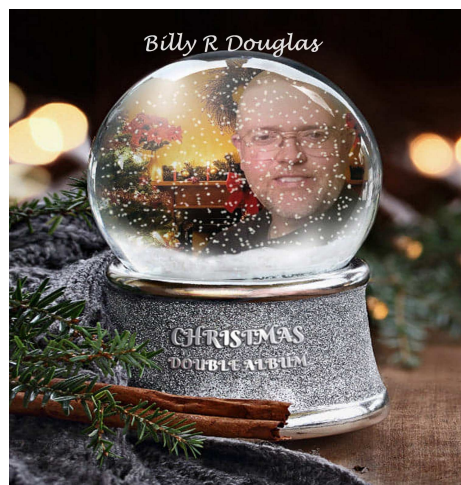
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 3/4 cup sugar, divided
- 1/2 cup butter, divided
- 2 tsp orange zest
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/3 cup shortening
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon

Combine orange juice, 1/2 cup sugar, 1/4 cup butter and orange zest in a medium saucepan. Cook and stir over medium heat for 2 minutes. Fill 12 ungreased muffin cups each with 1 1/4 Tablespoons of mixture and set aside. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Cut in shortening until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in milk and mix with a fork until mixture forms a ball. On a heavily floured surface knead dough for one minute. Roll into a 9" square about 1/2" thick. Spread with remaining 1/4 cup softened butter. Combine cinnamon and remaining 1/4 cup sugar and sprinkle over dough. Roll up dough and cut into 12 slices, about 3/4 inch thick. Place slices, cut sides down in muffin cups. Bake at 450 degrees for 14 to 17 minutes. Cool for 2 to 3 minutes and remove from pan.

Gingerbread Waffles

- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup molasses
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 egg

Combine flour, cinnamon, ginger, and salt. Heat molasses and butter until the butter melts. Remove from heat and stir in baking soda. Add buttermilk and egg, and then fold in flour mixture. Cook in a preheated waffle iron until golden



December Featured Music CD

2 Christmas Albums on One CD! 20 Songs in all!!

Country Christmas (2016)

He's The Reason For The Season (2005)

1. Country Christmas
2. Three Wise Men
3. An Old Christmas Card
4. He's The Reason For The Season
5. When Jesus Came
6. Christmas On His Knees
7. Santa Claus Got Saved
8. What Child Is This
9. Mary Did You Know
10. Go Tell It On The Mountain
11. O Come All Ye Faithful
12. Beautiful Star Of Bethlehem
13. C H R I S T M A S
14. Sleep Little Baby
15. O Little Town Of Bethlehem
16. The First Christmas Tree
17. Joseph's Song
18. Joy To The World
19. Come On Ring Those Bells
20. The Gift

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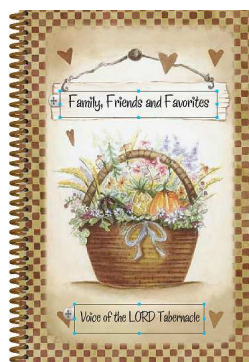


VOTL Radio Presents "Silent Night" (2010)

Christmas Compilation CD

1. Silent Night - Carroll Roberson
2. The Message of Christmas - Ray Owens
3. Beautiful Star of Bethlehem - Mike Vaughn
4. Is There Room in Your Christmas for Jesus? - Sharron Kay King
5. The First Christmas Night - Billy Fields
6. From the Manger to the Cross - The Barry Jones Family
7. C H R I S T M A S - Billy R. Douglas
8. Three Little Pennies - Spirit Led
9. Still the Greatest Gift of All - Sharron Kay King
10. It's Christmas Time - Carroll Roberson
11. The Christmas Guest - Mike Vaughn
12. Mary Did You Know - Billy Fields
13. What Child is This? - Billy R. Douglas
14. Worship the King - Ray Owens
15. The Christmas Story - Steven Huston

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A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Additional passages for Today: Matt 13:22; 16:26; 1 Cor. 2:12; 4:13; Gal. 4:3; Eph. 6:12; Phil. 2:15; Col. 2:8

Thought for Today: How much have we conformed to this world? We must be in the Word of God if we desire to renew our mind and not be just like the world.

Story for Today: "The Church is only 20 years behind the world." The statement resounded off the inside of Jason's head for a good 20 minutes while he drove in the dark back to his apartment. As he made his way inside, he couldn't help but notice the lawn ornaments his neighbor had leaning up against the storage shed. A collection of creepy decorations were ready to be put into storage and an assortment of reindeer and candy canes were ready to take their place. Jason wasn't fond of the decorations that many in his neighborhood put out for Halloween but figured they really didn't hurt anybody; did they? And surely the Christmas decorations were ok; right? I mean some people have the nativity so it shines the light on Jesus and makes it all worthwhile; right? Tess sat on the couch inside the apartment watching her favorite sitcom. As Jason entered he heard the crude joke and the foul language and looked at Tess who, while using slang, tried to express her disbelief that he was going to make an issue out of what he had just heard. She changed the channel and began watching a Hallmark Christmas movie. Jason was disgusted to see that not only was the main character a feminist that showed disrespect to her boss, she was a lesbian also. Jason didn't want trouble, but he knew that wasn't programming that he wanted played in his home. Suggesting they go out for a drive, Tess jumped at the chance to get the Christmas tree. As they walked through the lot of trees that were ready to take their place in the center of many homes for the next few weeks, the words he had heard earlier flooded into his mind again. "The Church is only 20 years behind the world." He began to think as he kept up with Tess as she passed other worldly men and women out buying their tree. He stopped quickly when he remembered the verse the pastor had read in Romans 12:2. "And be not conformed to this world..." What was he doing? Why were they out buying a Christmas tree? Oh, Jason wanted to celebrate the birth of the Christ child, but was he going about that all wrong? Was he going to continue conforming to the world? Or was he going to be a world changer and start to follow the Spirit instead of the flesh and the world? Not believing how far he and Tess had allowed themselves to go in the slippery slope to pleasing the flesh, Jason vowed to make changes. He knew that buying and decorating a Christmas tree wasn't necessarily a sin. However, he was feeling a strong conviction that he needed to check his motives for why he was doing things. And he knew he needed to start by opening up the Bible and reading the words that would begin the renewing of his mind.

Questions for Today: What things do you do that are traditions or customs that may not align with the Bible? Do you start your day reading God's word? Do you take the Word with you to meditate on it and allow it to transform not only the things you do, but the way you think? If people were to observe you at work and play, would they see the world or would they see Christ being lived out through you?

Prayer for Today: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word and for the ability to read and for the understanding You give to us. Thank You for allowing Your word to transform our lives as we take it in and allow it to work in us. Please guide us and strengthen us to be the light You desire us to be as we put Your ways above our ways. Help us to do the things that look strange to the world but are in line with the teaching found in Your word. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen



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Jamey Howell	Huck Frazier	Ashton Henderson	Roger Fella
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Kelly & Carolyn Ralph	Chad Daniel	Wanda Kellems	Jarrold Scarboro
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Tonya Shocklee	Lisa Bittner	Kathy Whitehouse & family	Sheila Bruce
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Bria George	Tyler Willis	Juanita Shroader	Thomas Kidd
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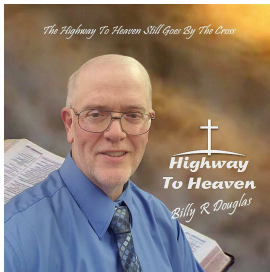
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