



One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people can be.

They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from the trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?" "It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked. "Oh yeah," said the son. "So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father. The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they have four.

We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end.

We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs.

We have walls around our property to protect us and they have friends to protect them." With this, the boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

Too many times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have. That is one person's worthless object is another's prize possession.

It is all based on one's perspective. Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks to God for the bounty we have been provided by Him instead of worrying about wanting more.



JOY TO THE WORLD!

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great.. I would recommend it very highly.'

The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know.... The one that's red and has thorns.'

'Do you mean a rose?' 'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the

kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator.

On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. 'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'

Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'

The doctor said, 'I didn't say that.. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'



THE REVELATION

A WRITTEN MINISTRY OF HANDS OF FAITH CHURCH

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TIS THE SEASON!

Ever heard the phrase, 'Hurry up and wait'? or "Tis the Season"? I'm sure that you have. Both are common and both are appropriate for this time of year. Christmas, waiting in lines only to hurry and scurry to the next store to wait in line, highlights the phrase, hurry up and wait. And at the same time people are saying and agreeing, with strained smiles, tis the season.

Unfortunately, most people miss the glory of this time of year and how God had a plan long ago for us to not hurry and wait but to realize that there is a fullness of time, or better yet, when the right time comes to appreciate it, rest in it, enjoy it, and pace ourselves through it.

In Galatians 4:4, the Apostle Paul says that **when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.** Fortunately for us, God doesn't hurry and scurry along defining a specific period of time as an annual season. Rather, He takes His time, like a great chef marinating his food and taking his time making sure all things are properly prepared in order to have a delicious feast.

Too frequently we move quickly from blessing to blessing wanting more and more from God not realizing that God has His own time frame that makes sure everything is in place and all elements are set in motion for His blessing to come at the right time.

Jesus didn't come as soon as sin entered into the world. He didn't come during the times of Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Daniel, or any other period. He came at a time when men would hear the gospel and accept it over the law. He came at a time when cultures had become common in language, politics, and commerce. He came at the right time, during the right season, to fulfill all things that had been told thousands of years previously.

Are you waiting on God to do something for or in you? Don't hurry it along because when it comes, it will be at the right time and during the right season.

MARY AND JOSEPH!

There's much we don't know about Joseph and Mary. We assume Mary was young. Somehow we think Joseph was a bit older. But still, there's so much we don't know. For example, how did the couple feel when they left Nazareth for Bethlehem? Did they cast a parting

glance at their little town on the hillside? Here's what we do know. Joseph and Mary were devoted to caring for their baby. Jesus came first. They searched for the best spot for His birth, dedicated Him to God in infancy, and undertook a rigorous trip to Egypt when He was endan-

gered. The most important thing about Joseph and Mary was their devotion to Christ. The same should be true for us. People don't need to know everything about us, but one thing should be clear to all—our absolute devotion to Jesus Christ. He come first. He alone is preeminent.





A BIBLICAL REMINDER

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Savior is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Might God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Before digital tools beeped at us and sent us messages, people used all manner of methods as reminders: a string around a finger; a rubber band around a wrist, a note on the refrigerator, mirror, or steering wheel; setting an alarm clock. Part of our human frailty is that our memory is not perfect. We need reminders in all parts of life.

The apostle Paul understood this. He pointed out that our regular observance of the Lord's Table is a way to "proclaim the Lord's death till He comes (1 Cor. 11:26). Every time we consume the cup and the bread we are reminded of the broken body and shed blood of the Savior. We need that reminder "till He comes." Christmas is a reminder as well—a reminder that one day Jesus Christ will rule the world as He is destined to do. A Child was born and a Son was given at the first Christmas. And He deserves the names Isaiah gave Him: "Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Although the government has not yet rested upon His shoulders, it will when He comes again.

Let this Christmas remind you of what God has in store for the world.



This is Good!

An old story is told of a king in Africa who had a close friend with whom he grew up. The friend had a habit of looking at every situation that ever occurred in his life (positive or negative) and remarking, "This is good!"

One day the king and his friend were out on a hunting expedition. The friend would load and prepare the guns for the king. The friend had apparently done something wrong in preparing one of the guns, for after taking the gun from his friend, the king fired it and his thumb was blown off. Examining the situation the friend remarked as usual, "This is good!" To which the king replied, "No, this is NOT good!" and proceeded to send his friend to jail.

"No greater love does a man have then to lay down his life for a friend"

About a year later, the king was hunting in an area that he should have known to stay clear of. Cannibals captured him and took him to their village. They tied his hands, stacked some wood, set up a stake and bound him to the stake.

As they came near to set fire to the wood, they noticed that the king was missing a thumb. Being superstitious, they never ate anyone that was less than whole. So untying the king, they sent him on his way. As he returned home, he was reminded of the event that had taken his thumb and felt remorse for his treatment of his friend. He went immediately to the jail to speak with his friend. "You were right," he said, "it was good that

my thumb was blown off." And he proceeded to tell the friend all that had just happened. "And so I am very sorry for sending you to jail for so long. It was bad for me to do this."

"No," his friend replied, "This is good!"

"What do you mean, 'This is good'? How could it be good that I sent my friend to jail for a year?"

"If I had NOT been in jail, I would have been with you."

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." (Rom. 8:28)

