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WHAT DO WE WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

I wonder how many people in among my newsletter readers still remember the time when little children use to sing the song, “All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth, my two front teeth....my two front teeth”? My how times have changed! Such songs certainly do not reflect the times in which we live today! The loss of virtue, innocence, and purity has been replaced with corruption, degeneracy, greed, and selfishness.

The Greek physician, Hippocrates once expressed such a time as this when he said ‘desperate times call for desperate measures.’ The question is how do these things get resolved? Where are the people of influence? Where are the godly statesmen whose voices stand for justice, freedom, and godliness? I am sure there are such people; but somehow their voices have been made silent, miss-interpreted, and replaced with spokesmen whose belief and philosophy has sprung from the deepest regions of hell.

I realize we are undergoing several crises within our nation, such as: Covid-19, government shut-downs which had disrupted a growing economy, and the possible stolen election by corrupt politicians and media organizations. But what is worse is the lack of godly leaders with the kind of influence needed to bring a halt to what is taking place in our nation. We who are freedom loving people who believe in clean government, honesty, and virtue can’t help but exchange the words of our “Christmas song” from wanting “teeth” to something far more meaningful and significant.

For quite some time we have seen the failure of so many who have failed to develop into any form of maturity with age. They are unwilling or afraid to take personal responsibility for themselves. Many are still using their parent’s money to live on because they never learned to save or budget. They trust the wrong people for advice. They want life to be what they do on weekends...all play. Even their communicating skills are limited to slang or something they heard others say. Many lack any self-control, discipline, and understanding in the basic of what life is all about. In other words they want the wrong things for Christmas.

WHAT DO WE REALLY WANT

What do we want for Christmas? The problem is that what we should want cannot be found in Macy’s or Nordstrom’s. Neither can it be found in some relative’s pocket book or bank account. No! The need is far more serious than that. Because if we as a nation do not secure for ourselves what is so desperately needed in this time we will have lost some of the most precious things that we have ever experienced. The sad thing is, many will lose it, and not know what they lost or why because they have never taken the time to find out what has made our nation great.

Too many people in our day have never taken the time to figure out why there is a church in about every community and why it has continued to exist from the time of our founding as a nation. Too many people think a church is nothing more than a place to hear hymns sung and a sermon preached. They forget that what comes forth from such a place is what has kept this nation free in spite of all its adversaries. Think about it, why would such people as our Governor prohibit people from attending God’s House while at the same time allowing “strip clubs” and “tattoo parlors” to remain open?

Don’t tell me he and other such like governors did this to protect you from Covid-19. When our Governor had to admit that he himself did not practice what he preached should tell you something about him and his motivation. If anything he along with his other friends wanted to silence the influence of the church over it’s people concerning this election, because he knew that Mr. Trump has been fighting for our freedom in regards to some of the hot topics as “religious freedom, abortion, and same-sex marriage.” If they can silent the church they know that they will have a free hand to do as they please without opposition.

I have a message for our Governor and anyone like him....we will not be silenced.

It is not about an election, it is about godliness. Too many people, through ignorance and lack of concern have ignored the basic principles of freedom. In fact, what freedom is to one, in reality is bondage to another. They have no lines or boundaries; they think “*true freedom*” is doing as one pleases, regardless of the consequences, or how such imperils others. For instance in the recent election, the voters in the State of Oregon, have just passed legislation to permit the sale of illegal drugs. What in the world were the citizens of that State thinking? I can tell you this...they want the wrong things!

I realize I am old and my days here on this earth are numbered. But I still want something for Christmas, not just this Christmas, but for every Christmas till Jesus comes. What I want is not just for myself, what good is that, if others are not blessed? What I want is not something which is selfish. What I want is what is best for the world. I want people to have a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please note I said, “**saving knowledge** of Jesus Christ.” Most people know about Jesus Christ. But they don’t know enough to be saved.

This is one of the reasons that we encourage our people to give to World Missions every year. We do this for the support of those who are willing to leave the comforts of home here in the United States of America to live in foreign countries simply to spread the Gospel and about what it means to have a “saving knowledge” of the Lord Jesus Christ. I admire all the missionaries we support, including our son, Paul, who has spent the last nine years in Tahiti, separated from family and friends to proclaim the gospel to youth who are addicted to drugs on their beautiful islands. He is not there to swim and water ski on their beautiful beaches. He could do that in Seal Beach with far greater wages.

DON'T GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS

Several years ago, when I was barely into my teens, my sister, Becky, wanted a watch for Christmas. She was six years younger than I and somehow watches had caught her eye and she was most open with Mom and Dad about what she wanted. Well my folks were also ministers and they really were living on a limited budget. Buying such an item would have required quite a sacrifice on their part. They did everything they could to discourage my sister with such high expectation. Finally she got the message and dropped the idea.

But then Christmas time came. Much to the surprise of my sister she got what she wanted. I will never forget it...because of what happened when she got it. Instead of celebrating with hilarity she wept with expressions of thanks and so did I. While she had given up asking, she never quit dreaming. Her dream became a reality.

I realize what I would like for Christmas probably in most people minds is impossible. But let me dream. Maybe, through some great providence of God, that which may seem impossible to man could really happen. Such things have happened in the past both for nations as well as individuals. We live in an age in which great discoveries have been made that centuries before men thought impossible. But I hang on one truth found in God’s Word which brings comfort to me when facing seemingly the impossible. (Matt. 19:26)

Jesus once told his disciples that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to go into the kingdom of heaven. After the disciples heard this, they were utterly bewildered, and asked the Lord; “*Who then can be saved?*” It was Jesus response that should give us encouragement. He said: “With men this is impossible, but all things are possible with God.” When God is involved “***all things are possible.***”

If a person will read other passages in Scripture such as in [Gen. 18:14; Job 42:2] that statement is repeated. Why? Now hope deferred makes the heart sick. (Prov. 13:12). So God doesn’t desire to build up our hopes in expectations and then let us down. He simply wants us to realize “*the option*” is still there. The possibility with God is always possible if it is His will.

There is a difference between what we want and what we need. But when we let God control our life He will supply us with what we need....but not necessarily with what we want. But when we trust Him with our desires we like the Psalmist can say, “The Lord is my Shepherd, ***I shall not want.***” Why because we can trust Him with what we need. I don’t think we always know what we need. We only know what we want. So we must leave what we need in the hands of God. We can because the Word tell us...this. “**No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.**” ***Psalm 84:11. Amen***