

Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

Tis The Season

Tis the season to be jolly! Isn't that the declaration of the very popular Christmas song? Yet in reality, the demands of the season often leave us far short of jolly. According to Webster's Dictionary, the word "jolly" means "joyful, full of life, merry, pleasant." It also means to be light-hearted. Now, I must ask. Does that describe your Christmas demeanor? Or, like many, do you face the holidays with jaw set and teeth clenched. You are overextended, too tired to smile and enjoy the grandeur of Christmas.

Certainly, this is the season to recognize the greatness of our God. The Savior has come! The Lord has visited His people and Jesus, the strength of our salvation, has graced Bethlehem's manger. The prophecy of Isaiah has been fulfilled. He writes, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."¹ He further explains "a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son."² This is the message that must be hallowed. In the midst of the hustle and

bustle that this season demands, there must be those moments of reflection that fill our hearts with the solace of heaven.

Our God is the Prince of Peace! Yet in our one-hundred mile an hour society, the tranquility of His presence cannot rule our lives. When our priority dictates we go (to



spend), we travel (to find), and we commute (to enjoy), God's glorious presence often evades us. We do not enjoy His promised peace.

The Word of God declares that God's peace is beyond our understanding. There are so many things that I do not understand and cannot accomplish. First, I have no mechanical skills. If a machine plugs in, reboots, demands passwords, or operates with small buttons, it is far beyond my expertise. I cannot do what is required and every effort shatters my peace like a broken

glass. You can insist and explain, but the result is always great distress. I simply can't! It is beyond my ability, beyond my aptitude.

But here is good news! Although I may never conquer mechanical devices, I can have God's peace. I do not have to understand this peace. In fact, I cannot understand His peace. It is "deeper than knowledge,"³ "surpasses all comprehension,"⁴ and "transcends all our powers of thought."^{5,6} Even so, it is mine.

God's perfect peace is available to every Christian who trusts Him.⁷ When we trust Him, our mind is established in Him and supported by His promises. There is no dilemma, no trauma (or any holiday) that distracts us.

One Valentine's Day, Wayne and I chose to eat out. It was definitely a mistake, unless you enjoy waiting a long time. After we were seated, we noticed that the couple next to us sat and stared at one another. They did not acknowledge the people around them or the waiter who came to help them. They were seemingly frozen in time, looking only at one another.

Often I think of this incident because it

reminds me to tarry in God's presence. With Him, there is peace. When the author and composer, Helen H. Lemmel, penned the words to the familiar hymn, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus," she was reading a tract entitled "Focused." This pamphlet birthed the words we know well, "Look full in His wonderful face, / And the things of earth will grow strangely dim In the light of His glory and grace."⁸ What magnificent words! What a grand reminder!

The light of God supersedes all earthly activities.

Can anything be more important? In a natural setting, Wayne is more important to me than life. I am so glad God joined us together. Wayne's loving care and oversight are the joy of my heart and I want to spend time with him. However, he cannot always dim the lights of distress. Often he cannot heal my broken heart or erase the pain of man's harsh words. Oh, But GOD, Almighty GOD, is more than enough. In His presence is fullness of joy.⁹

The cry of our Lord is "Come unto me."¹⁰ And I want to come, not simply for peace or for joy. I choose to bow my heart in adoration. Like the wise men, I worship Him. When the wise men asked King Herod, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?"¹¹ he did not know the answer. But I know. God dwells in my heart by His Spirit and for just a moment, I pause to say, "I love you. Thank you for coming!" Together, let us adore Him.

Becky

¹Is 9:6 ²Mt 1:23 ³BAS ⁴NASB ⁵WEY ⁶Php 4:7 ⁷Is 26:3 ⁸Words & Music: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922 ⁹Ps 16:11 ¹⁰Mt 11:28 ¹¹Mt 2:2
