



II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

LIBERTY

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THERE WAS NO ROOM IN BETHLEHEM

There was no room in Bethlehem
For Him who left His throne
To seek the lost at countless cost
And make their griefs His own.

But there was room on Calvary
Upon the cross of shame
For Him to die uplifted high
To bear the sinner's blame.

There was no room in Bethlehem,
And in the world today
Men will not give Him room to live
And bid Him turn away.

But there is room on Calvary,
And there He stands to give
A home to all who heed His call
and look to Him and live.

There was no room in Bethlehem
For Christ, the Prince of Kings,
From throne and crown to earth
come down
With healing in His wings.

But there's still room at Calvary
For sinners to abide,
For those who come and find a
home
In Jesus crucified.

-E. M. Clarkson

Merry Christmas

From Pastor & Mrs. Dice
and Staff

CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

The Rev. Dr. A. C. Dixon says that when their little boy Harold died, all the enjoyment of their life was gone. He had no joy in preaching or in any of his work. When the Christmas festival was to be held in their church, he felt like leaving the city, but remained. The children came to the tree, had a good time, and seemed to have forgotten all about little Harold.

The next day was Christmas. While the family sat at the table, sad and silent, one of the little ones said, "Papa, this is Harold's first Christmas in heaven." Another quickly replied, "Why, it is Christmas all the time in heaven." Immediately the sadness disappeared because of the thought of little Harold's happiness in heaven.

In Days Gone By

On December 22, 1899, D.L. Moody died.

On December 23, 1948, Tojo was hanged.

On December 23, 1783, George Washington as commander-in-chief of the Army, retired to his Mt. Vernon home.

Americans Support Christmas

Despite what you see in the news today, the truth of the matter is that the vast majority of Americans still support Christmas and what it stands for. A recent survey found that 90% of Americans still celebrate Christmas, with 55% of those viewing Christmas as a religious holiday rather than simply cultural. 66% of Americans believe that Jesus Christ was born to a virgin. Additionally, only 26% of Americans believe that Christian displays should not be allowed on government property.

This Christmas season, remember that the majority of Americans still believe in standing up for Christmas as the religious holiday that it is. Make sure you give a hearty "Merry Christmas!" to all you meet.

Public Christmas Displays

In *Lynch v. Donnelly*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that nativity scenes and other religious symbols may be included, as part of a larger holiday display on public property. The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the crèche because it was one part of a larger Christmas display, which included numerous secular symbols.

Christmas in Public Schools

Generally, students are free to discuss the religious origins of Christmas with their peers during non-instructional periods of the school day. Students also have the right to express their religious views regarding Christmas during a class discussion, writing assignment, or other activity. This must be relevant to the subject being discussed and comply with the assignment requirements.

Christian Law Association

Two little boys went to their grandparents' house for Christmas. At bedtime the youngest one began to pray at the top of his lungs, "I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE... I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE... I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE!" The older brother said, "Why are you shouting? Do you think God is deaf?" The little one said, "Nope, but Grandma and Grandpa certainly are!"

Anyone who believes that men are the equal of women has never seen a man trying to wrap a Christmas present.

- Mom, can I please have a cat for Christmas?
- No, you'll have turkey like the rest of us.



Why There Is A Christmas Day

As far back as I can remember, I can still hear my mother singing an old Christmas song to me and my brothers which spoke about the importance of Christmas. Many of you may have heard it. Here are the words:

When I was but a youngster, Christmas meant one thing. That I'd be getting lots of toys that day. But I learned a whole lot different when mommy sat me down, and taught me to spell Christmas this way:

"C" is for the Christ-child, born upon this day,
"H" for Herald angels in the night.

"R" is for our Redeemer,

"I" means Israel,

"S" is for the Star that shown so bright.

"T" is for Three wise men, they who traveled far,

"M" is for the Manger where He laid.

"A" is for All He stands for,

"S" means Shepherds came,

And that's why there's a Christmas day!

-The Dice Brothers

Bernard Manning said that the three phrases that sum up the Christmas season are:

1. Peace On Earth
2. Goodwill To Men
3. Batteries Not Included



Unscramble:

RAYM

OPJSEH

GRMAEN

TBASEL

EWSI ENM

PDRSSEHH

RAST

MEBEEETHL

SGNEAL

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



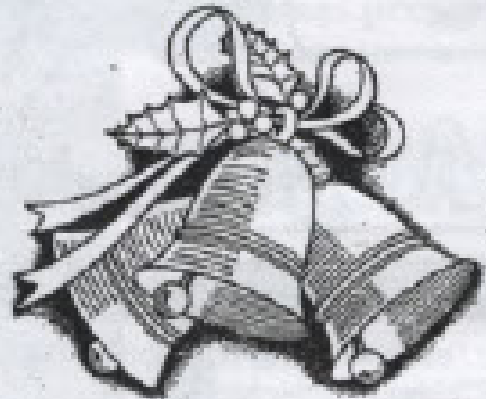
"I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY"

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was a literary genius (1807-1882) who experienced many tragedies during his lifetime. He lost his first wife, Mary Potter, due to a complicated miscarriage. He later married Fanny Appleton which proved to be an unhappy marriage, but did produce four girls and a boy. One of his girls became ill at 18 months and died a few days later.

A fire in his home caused the death of his second wife in 1861. His son Charles went off to fight in the Civil War and was seriously wounded. Longfellow walked back and forth to the field hospital to help care for his son. He witnessed many other wounded and dying men and saw tragedy and sadness. It was at this time he wrote the song, "Christmas Bells." The last verse revealed his heart. Here's the song:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men
I thought how, as the day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said.
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men.



JESUS

- BORN AS A BABY
- PREACHED AS A CHILD
- KILLED AS A MAN
- AROSE AS A VICTOR
- COMING BACK AS

KING

Years ago the pastor of a church in upstate New York went to Buffalo to make arrangements for a Christmas sign to be placed outside the church, but when he arrived he discovered that he had lost the dimensions. He wired his wife: **SEND MOTTO AND SIZE OF SIGN.** When his wife handed the reply to the Western Union office, the clerk almost fainted. The wire read: **UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, 8 FEET LONG AND 3 FEET WIDE.**