

HOW DOES YOUR MANGER SCENE LOOK?

Wayne's Weekly Words

In some Denominations, the Christ Child is not laid in the manger until Christmas Sunday. I have no problem with that - it is more Scriptural. The people who have the Magi on the other side of the room are also quite correct since it was some time before they reached Bethlehem.

Now I wonder if we ought to leave the Baby Jesus out of the manger altogether because He is no longer there - He is risen! (Pleased don't rush home and remove Him!) If you even have a manger scene today, you are among the dwindling number of Christians who do so. Then Tozer said,

And she brought forth her first—born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

—Luke 2:7

So completely are we carried away by the excitement of this midwinter festival that we are apt to forget that its romantic appeal is the least significant thing about it. The theology of Christmas too easily gets lost under the gay wrappings, yet apart from its theological meaning it really has none at all. A half dozen doctrinally sound carols serve to keep alive the great deep truth of the Incarnation, but aside from these, popular Christmas music is void of any real lasting truth....

It does seem strange that so many persons become excited about Christmas and so few stop to inquire into its meaning; but I suppose this odd phenomenon is quite in harmony with our unfortunate human habit of magnifying trivialities and ignoring matters of greatest import....

The Christmas message, when stripped of its pagan overtones, is relatively simple: God is come to earth in the form of man.

— Tozer on the Almighty God

Where you put Christ in your manger scene is not all that important compared with where you put Him with respect to yourself!

*And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **He who has the Son has life;** he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life,** and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

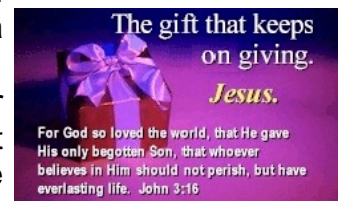
1 John 5:11-13 (NKJV)

I just this week saw a church sign which read, "Without Christmas, there would be no Easter!" I thought that was a rather clever way of stating an eternal truth. Christians, on the whole, seem to forget what God gave them - His Son. The passage above goes on with,

My purpose in writing is simply this: that you who believe in God's Son will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that you have eternal life, the reality and not the illusion. And how bold and free we then become in his presence, freely asking according to his will, sure that he's listening. And if we're confident that he's listening, we know that what we've asked for is as good as ours.

1 John 5:13-15 (MSG)

More and more both Gail and I have added a phrase to our vocabulary. When we have tried for something and failed, but God saw what we needed and provided it, we say "Thank you God!"



These are not idle words on our part, we really mean it when we say them. Someone long ago referred to Christ as "The Gift that Keeps On Giving!" If you know Christ as both Savior and Lord, you have this gift -enjoy it! Look expectantly for His soon return!

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

James 1:17 (NKJV)

