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## What I Believe

I dont believe that God above,  
who gave to us His Son in love,  
would turn His back on you and me,  
who look to Him to set us free  
from death and hell and misery.

I dont believe that Jesus Christ,  
who came to earth to pay the price  
to deliver men from sin and shame,  
to raise us up to praise His name,  
Would leave us here and not come again.

I dont believe His heavenly Dove,  
who came to us from God above  
to teach us of our Saviors love,  
would fly away, But I do believe  
Hes with me now, to encourage,  
to strengthen, in this heavenly way.



# CHRISTMAS OR XMAS

It is getting close to the time of year when we celebrate the Christmas holiday. It is supposed to be a time to remember the birth of Christ. However, what we find mostly is a holiday for people to do everything but remember the birth of Christ.

Have you noticed that people write Xmas instead of Christmas? This is simply to shorten a long word they say. It may seem that way at first, but it is really taking the Christ out of Christmas. This trend is increasing to the point of completely changing the day to simply a winter holiday.

At my place of work, they always used to refer, in company policy, to the Christmas holiday. However, in the last couple of years, it has been changed to simply the "Winter break." There is a desire to get rid of anything that might possibly have some specific religious connotation to it.

In the commercial world, there is a desire to use whatever brings in the most customers to spend their money. This is the current use of the holiday for the world. They base their forecast of the economy on the Christmas holiday sales figures. How far we have come from the birth of Christ.

It is not my intention to tell anyone that they should not buy any gifts for Christmas. I would not tell anyone that they should not get together with their family for Christmas. However, I would tell anyone who knows the Lord that they need to remember who is the reason for the season. If all

those other things get us occupied to the point of forgetting Christ, then we have lost the purpose of this holiday.

It is not important whether you can afford to give gifts. It is not important whether you receive gifts. It is not even important whether someone remember you or not during the holiday. The only thing that is important is whether we remember and reflected on the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I have seen many people get very upset because someone did not send them a card or gift. Some have been hurt because they were not remembered by some friend or family. How far from the example of Christ Himself, who we are supposed to be remembering, who did not even have a decent place to be born. No family other than His parents, and was then the object of Herod's hatred.

We, as God's children, who have the life of Christ in us, become just like the world during this holiday. We are to be separate, different from the world. We know the One who gave up everything (heaven, glory, comfort) to come and live a humble life and die for us. Let us reflect on these things this year. Consider what a great meaning lies in the Christmas holiday. God came to be with us in the form of a baby whose name is Jesus.

Whether you spend the Christmas holiday with family or friends, or even alone, think about Jesus. Make Him the center of your celebration. He truly is the reason for celebrating this Christmas.

Gordon Crook

# Shortages and Crises

We read further of Elijah and his faith in I Kings nineteen. **He** boldly put God to the test when he poured water upon the altar and sacrificed, after the priest of Baal had made offerings. They could not get an answer from their god. Elijah proved before this great multitude that his God was alive. Then he destroyed those false prophets.

When Jezebel learned of the death of four hundred of her prophets, she became angry and vowed to kill the prophet Elijah. “And when he (Elijah) saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a jumper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers” - I Kings 19:3,4.

Now, Elijah was in a place **where God wanted him. He** was not so forceful and strong in himself. He had been perfectly obedient in doing God’s will. As James writes, “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are: - James 5:17. He became discouraged. He seems to have lost his “go power.” “I cannot go any further. I cannot take any more.” He did not realize then, that he was **being prepared for translation. Think of that!**

“And as he lay and **slept under a juniper tree**, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken **on the** coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the Lord came again the second

time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because **the journey is too great for thee**" - I Kings 19:5-7.

This is what the Lord wants us to realize. We think, as we begin our journey, that **we have enough gas to get there. But, as it was with Elijah, it may be with us. The journey is too great for us. We need to realize that our own resources are limited, then God must supply His own. Praise God, for His faithfulness!**

"And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God" - I Kings 19:8. He surely was **strengthened to finish his course** - to make the trip that God had planned for him.

"Forty" is **the number of testing. Moses was forty years old when he attempted to deliver the children of Israel out of bondage. God had forty more years of training for him on the backside of the desert. Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted of Satan forty days and nights. We read how, after Jesus arose from the grave, He walked upon the earth for forty days as proof that He had come forth triumphant from the grave. Elijah went forty days and nights on the strength of this one meal. He was provided with Divine "go power."**

In the next issue: "A fuel shortage."

by Jack Davis



It is impossible for that man to despair  
who remembers that his Helper is omnipotent

*Psalm 121:1,2,7*

# The Cross of Christ

I Cor. 1:17-31

The apostle Paul was chosen to preach **the good news** (the gospel of Christ - V.17). It is a simple message not to be given with “wisdom of words,” lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. Sad to say philosophy (the wisdom of this world) has invaded the church today just as in Corinth of Paul’s day.

We are sometimes told we need to catch the spirit of the age. **NO**, the preaching of the cross (which is true wisdom) corrects it. Beware of catching the spirit of the age, for we can and will be mastered by it. We must not be affected by the world, We are in the world, but not of it. We are called to be **lights** in this darkened world.

The message of the cross which is **the wisdom of God** manifested, is regarded as just foolishness, silliness and absurd by some (V. 18). It is contrary to their own thinking, their philosophies. It is not just misunderstood, but despised. They are perishing because of that attitude. But to those who receive and believe, it is the **power of God** (a saving dynamic). All who trust themselves to it experience within them that dynamic power. Delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God’s dear Son (Col. 1:13). What a contrast, “foolishness” is just a thing of the mind or opinion; “power” acts and produces results.

“For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise...” V. 19. Where is it written? Isa. 29:13,14. Paul asks in V. 20, “Where is the wise?” In other words, what does it all amount to? All it is, is vanity and foolishness. The overruling God has made foolish the

whole business. The world looks upon the message of the cross as silliness, but God proves by what He has done by the word of the cross, the silliness of all their thinking. Rom. 1:22, “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”

In all the world’s philosophy they failed to discover God or come to a knowledge of Him (V. 21). It pleased God to choose the foolishness of preaching **to save them that believe**. God sent out the message, the announcement of His Son coming to this bankrupt world and going to the cross - by that word, it saves. Praise God!

The Jews look for a sign, the cross should have been that sign, but instead it was a stumbling block (something to fall over). They saw Jesus as beaten and defeated. They wanted spectacular manifestation, the cross was an offence to them (V. 22,23). The Greeks (Gentiles) seek after wisdom and they saw the cross as foolishness because it was outside the realm of things they knew. Is this not the attitude of many people today toward the cross of Christ?

“But to the called” (v. 24), who are they? Them that believe (note, V. 21). To them Christ is the **power of God** and the **wisdom of God**. That which men count foolish and weak is mightier than all the wisdom of men (V. 25). The cross was not defeat, but the way of victory and life.

The things of supposed human wisdom are futile and powerless (V. 26-29). Paul says, behold your calling brethren. In other words ponder this, that not many wise after the flesh, not many mighty, nor noble are called. Paul didn’t say “none,” just “not many.” Some church members boast of the intellectual people in their fellowship or the well-born, etc. But aren’t you glad it is **to those**

**that simply believe** what God says and what He has done. Consider Jesus' words in Mt. 11:25-30.

We read of a remarkable contrast in Vs. 27 and 28 between fleshly thinking and divine provision. God chose the foolish things of the world to disgrace the wise, the weak things to disgrace the strong, the base things, the despised He chose. Think over the things held wise by the thinkers of this world. God refuses all those things. What did He choose? The foolish things, the weak, base, despised (that is what they are in men's thinking). What is the purpose of God's choice? V. 29-31 tells us, that no flesh should glory (boast) in His presence.

“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us **wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption...**” All because of Him and it all belongs to those in Christ Jesus. May we by faith appropriate the provisions that are ours in Christ.

Earlene Davis



He left us the Word . . .

For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only begotten son,  
that whosoever believeth in him  
should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.

John. 3:16

# Seek and Find

Find the underlined words  
in the puzzle on page 10

## John 14:1-4

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.



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 Q I P F X T S                V H E A R T H  
 U K W B Z T D A E W X V P U O M Y  
 I P H    V E O T I Z A K E A U    T O C  
 P U F U    D W L U W Y X G S    C J F C  
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