

The True Reason for the Season

By Dr. Patricia Bailey

The bible tells us in Luke 4:18 that Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." We are also told in Luke 19:10 that, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Lastly we can see the Son of man was manifest, so that He may destroy the yokes of the wicked one.

With everything within us we must disengage ourselves from the merchandised hustle and bustle of marketing the birth of our Christ. More money has been made off of our Savior's birth than any other person in the history of mankind. The irony of the whole façade is that, it's His birthday and yet everyone else gets the gifts but Him.

He is our gift; the Savior of all mankind gave Himself as a ransom, so that anyone that believes on him shall have life eternal. What a merciful Savior, and a longsuffering Lord.

May I challenge you to purpose not to get drawn into the madness of thrusting into debt for one day's event, and then maxing out your



Dr. Patricia Bailey in front of the Rock the Dome in Israel

credit cards with ridiculous interest rates, thus entrapping yourself to pay off for the remainder of the year. Then we pray to Jesus to help us pay our bills that we have made on His birthday, when we gave the gift to someone else. We certainly don't go to them in the remainder of the year to bail us out of the madness that we have created.

Instead this year, give our Lord the gift that He came to earth for, died for, rose from the grave for, and ascended to heaven for. That gift is the gift of salvation to someone lost. All of heaven will rejoice with Jesus over one soul saved. It is the very reason of His life's ransom.

Harness your mind during this holiday season and make a quality decision to allow the true reason for the season to be the celebration of the birth of our Lord.

If you are an avid reader of these monthly articles, provided by the Phoenix, you will know by now that my most quoted scripture verse is Matthew 25:40, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." If we want to bless the Savior and really do something that will touch His heart, visit the battered women's shelter. Invite a person who has no family to the family Christmas dinner. Volunteer a day at the soup kitchen. If your church has an outreach during the holiday season, be the first to volunteer, then keep your word.

Go and visit someone at hospice, a home for the elderly or a hospital. Better still, pray and let the Lord lead you and guide you to the person that He has appointed for you to reach out to.

True ministry is reaching out to people; stooping down if need be, or reaching up. There are as many up and outers as there are down and outers during this holiday season. Remember to reach out to those around you. For many of us this is a season for celebrating with family, but for many others it is a depressing time because they are separated in some way from their families or have no family. Reach out.

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