

# A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

## *2008 Advent Season*

"When Your Christmas Is Not Very Merry"

Matthew 2:13-18 (Pew Bible Page 682) Matthew 11:28-30 (Pew Bible Page 689)

For many, Christmas is the "Hap-Happiest Time"

For some, it was a "Blue, Blue Christmas"

*"I just don't understand Christmas. Instead of feeling happy,  
I feel sort of let down"* Charlie Brown

1. It is not UNUSUAL
2. You are not ALONE

Even the First Christmas was not all "Merry"

- MARY AND JOSEPH
- WISEMEN
- FAMILIES OF BETHLEHEM

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR CHRISTMAS IS NOT "VERY MERRY"?

"God R.E.S.T. ye merry, Gentlemen"

- R. Be REALISTIC  
*"Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought"* Romans 12:3  
*"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life"* Proverbs 4:23  
Start by acknowledging your LOSS  
*"Blessed are those who mourn, they will be comforted"* Matthew 5:4
- E. EXPRESS YOUR FAITH  
*"...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead..."* James 2:17  
*"Your feelings are not to be your final authority"*
- Express and Speak
- Words of PRAISE
  - Words of THANKSGIVING
  - Words of FAITH
- "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and My Redeemer"* Psalm 19:14

S. **STAY IN TOUCHE**

*"Is any among you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is anyone of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord."* James 5:13-14

- Stay in touch with God's **PEOPLE**
- Stay in touch with God's **WORD**

*"He gives strength to the weary...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength...soar on wings like eagles; run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint.."* Isaiah 40:29-31

T. **TRY SERVING OTHERS**

Luke 9:26-37 Who is the greatest, opposition

Luke 10:1 He sent them out...Vs 10 Returned with joy

- **ACTS OF KINDNESS**
- **WORDS OF BLESSING**

*"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."* Isaiah 9:2, 6-7