

WHAT? It's Almost Christmas Again?

By Phil Arms

I can still remember, though at times it's a stretch, when as a youngster it seemed Christmas would never get here.

Now that I am older and wiser, well at least older, it seems as though Christmas rolls around every couple of months. It doesn't actually but as we age time goes by faster and faster.

It seems like just yesterday, when I crawled around in our dark attic, searching through the boxes that I forgot (again) to mark last year. Fumbling through box after box looking for the ones with the Christmas lights, the tinsel and that green stuff Suzanne strings all over the house is not easy. One never knows what kind of creatures have set up housekeeping up there since last year.

For me the worst part is all those big spider webs. I see them every year but I never see the spiders. I know they are there, someplace lurking, waiting and getting ready to jump out and bite me to death. But, alas, I survive only to be forced the next year, once again, to run the spider gauntlet. Then I am afforded a few months to rebuild my faith before I face the dark attic again.

But, Praise His Name, this season means so very much more to believers than decorations, manger scenes and shepherds watching flocks. It's a time to remember, above all things, that God demonstrated His love for us by making the supreme sacrifice of His only Son to die in our place and suffer for our sin.

To those who know Him, Christmas is far, far more than a pretty Christmas tree. It's about a blood-stained, old rugged cross and the Lamb of God without spot or blemish having the life crushed out of Him that we may live. It's about God interrupting me on my headlong dash to hell and extending nail scarred hands, offering me forgiveness, redemption and life abundant. This entire season, Christmas, New Years and all that goes with it provokes me, motivates me to stop and re-evaluate my priorities and life.

It reminds me that our call goes beyond simply preaching the Gospel. We do that. And yet this time of year we are reminded that God wants to be intimately involved in every facet of our lives, even what we may consider the mundane.

Before she went to Heaven, Ruth Graham, Billy Graham's wife, would tell how she put a sign over her kitchen sink to remind her that living for Christ is far more than praying and church. Her sign over the sink read, "Services Held Here Three Times a Day."

I was reminded of her sign one day when I was slaving over an important message and my lovely wife walked in and said, "Your dog left a calling card on the floor. Would you go clean it up?" (It's always "your dog" when it messes up.)

But my first thought was "Hey, I'm busy serving God here!"

So, I got up and cleaned up the mess. I cannot lie and tell you that it was one of the spiritual highlights of my life but I did get the message.

And the Fact is

And the fact is we cannot escape the truth that this time of year is about giving, and not to just those we know and love.

When the Father gave the Son, He was giving what cost Him. You see if our giving to God does not cost us, something, it's no more than a tip.

God gave His best to those who deserved it least.

I know that this time of year all of us stretch ourselves and often our budgets to purchase nice things for family and friends. But do understand that our biggest and most sacrificial giving should be to The Father.

Our only legitimate, God-honoring investments are those that are eternal. Nothing, dear friend, and I do mean nothing, any of us ever achieves, accomplishes or succeeds at, matters a hill of beans unless it translates into getting God's message to waiting, hungry hearts.

I hear church folks and some ministries all the time giving or raising money for things like the United Fund or aiding the homeless or feeding the hungry and it may be argued that there is some merit to such efforts.

But I want you to know that it matters very little if feeding the hungry, housing the homeless and helping the poor is all we ever do.

All that means is that a whole lot of people are going to hell well fed, housed and in nice clothes.

Our focus must be on the eternal investments. If a man or woman comes to true faith in Christ, God will supply their every need and as David wrote in Psalms, "*I've never seen the righteous forsaken or His seed begging for bread.*"

Each of us must determine what sacrificial and eternal investments we make. But God wants us all to focus on giving what we have, not stuffing it away.

Jesus said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Where it Matters

As we now approach Christmas and the end of another year I'm going to ask you as a friend of this ministry, to consider making a God-honoring, special end of the year investment into this ministry before this month is over.

I am often told by believers that the Holy Spirit spoke to them about the money, or stocks or real estate, or items of value that they had which were only collecting dust, doing no one any good. They testify of the immense blessing God poured out upon them when they obeyed God and stopped hoarding things away for a rainy day and started investing in ministry that changes lives.

Friends, if you want to put your money and treasure in heaven, as God commands, then put it in the only thing going to heaven--souls!

In this, our last newsletter of the year 2011, I ask you to sincerely pray about this matter. The coming year affords us untold opportunities to reach still more with the Truths of God. I ask you to be a part of it.

As you probably know, I rarely ever make an appeal to our friends to step forward and help us in this manner.

However, I feel that God is about to do some glorious new things and I so want you to be in on it.

My family and I are praying that you and yours have the greatest Christmas and most blessed New Year you have ever known.

May God bless each of you, our friends, for caring and for loving the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Him,

Phil Arms

Every year at this time, we take the opportunity to make available some time honored season resources that God has used to bless so many hearts. Check out those below while

remembering those friends, family and loved ones who would be blessed if someone put one or more of the following in their hands.

THE MOST ASTONISHING NIGHT IN HISTORY—A message by Phil Arms

Very few people had even the slightest idea that in a little village on an insignificant little speck on the face of the earth, the greatest miracle in all history was about to happen. This is one of the most heart-warming, breathtaking messages you will ever hear.

Video \$10 CD\$6 Audio Cassette \$6

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON-- A message by Phil Arms

Living in today's commercialized society, it's very easy to forget the true meaning of this blessed season. This exciting message will rekindle the fires of true Christmas.

Video \$10 CD\$6 Audio Cassette \$6

THE BLOOD, THE CROSS, THE COVENANT—Four messages by Phil Arms

Few people realize that the whole purpose of that first Christmas when Jesus entered the human stream, was all about them and how a loving God longs to enter a relationship with each person through The Blood, the Cross and the Covenant.

Audio Cassette \$6 CD \$6

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD

Jesus Christ, the Son of God came that we might meet and know the Father. These unforgettable three messages will show you how to experience God and His blessings in every area of your life.

Three-parts CD or Audiocassette \$15

SINGLE MESSAGES BY PHIL ARMS \$6 EACH

BEHOLD THE MIRACLE

TURNING YOUR WEAKNESS INTO STRENGTHS

WHY CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE

LUST, FEAR AND PRIDE AND WHAT TO DO

GOD USES BROKEN THINGS

GOD DIDN'T SAVE YOU FOR HEAVEN

THE CRUCIFIXION

REMEMBER YOU CAN SEE ALL THE PRODUCTS ON OUR WEBSITE:

<http://lifereachministries.com/>

EMAIL TO: INFO@LIFEREACHMINISTRIES.COM