

## A Couple of Gems

As I sit here at my computer keyboard today, it is Dec. 26, the day after Christmas. All of the hullabaloo is winding down, almost over. Still to go: football games and other sports; more family get-togethers; the Rose Parade (how borrrring!); lots of play time out in the desert for many. By the time you see this, all of that will have passed. (And who knows what else may have arisen?)

So now the New Year stares us in the face. What will we do with it? What will come our way? How will we handle it? Will we have learned anything from the good or bad way we handled other situations this past year?

To those of us who profess to believe in, and also to FOLLOW God in surrender and obedience, are we listening to Him now? Will we let Him do the driving, without all of the second guessing because we know better? Will we try our best to do as He says?

This morning I ran across a couple of great articles which are both aimed at Christmas, but their truth is timeless. These are the kinds of wonderfully insightful writings that God's Holy Spirit uses to help me answer the questions above. I love stumbling on gems like this, and how they direct me to God, and to be closer to Him. They inspire me to "let go and let God", as my mother would say, to back off and see what He will do.

First is "Something Else Was Needed", by Peter Heck, who contributes to one of my favorite websites "Not the Bee", associated with Babylon Bee.

### Something Else Was Needed

Peter Heck, Not the Bee



Words inscribed on stone. Words copied onto a scroll. They knew Him through the law. They knew Him through their books of history that recorded mighty acts of supernatural power. They knew Him through books of poetry, books of wisdom. They knew Him through the potent pronouncements of prophets, through visions that had been fulfilled and others yet to be.

That was good. But He knew, He always knew, it wasn't good enough. For them to not just know about Him, but to truly know Him, something else would be needed.

Yet for 400 years of silence, they wondered if they would ever hear from Him again. But He knew, He always knew, the fullness of time was coming when He would shatter the darkness in the most remarkable, the most astonishing, the most unpredictable way.

No longer would mankind be writing our own desperate, despondent story. There in a Bethlehem manger, while kings and rulers, princes and sovereigns

*"There He was.  
Writing Himself into  
our story.  
Into our pain,  
He wrote peace.  
Into our sorrow,  
He wrote hope.  
Into our confusion,  
He wrote grace.  
Into our sin,  
He wrote salvation."*

slept, the King of creation was making the unlikely of entrances in front of the unlikely of witnesses.

Angelic choirs were dispatched from the halls of heaven to carry the glorious news to a group of dirty, disrespected, hillside shepherds that the Great I Am could be found lying in an animal trough, wrapped in cloths, tended to by a peasant girl and her betrothed.

There He was. Writing Himself into our story.

Into our pain, He wrote peace.  
Into our sorrow, He wrote hope.  
Into our confusion, He wrote grace.  
Into our sin, He wrote salvation.

There in that Bethlehem manger, the hopes and fears of all the years were met in Him that night.

They seem so different, those people 2,000 years ago. But they're not.

- They were living in a land of confusion, and so are we.
- They were living in a land without peace, and so are we.
- They were living in a world ruled by wealth and empire, and so are we.

Methods and machinery may have changed, but mankind remains the same. Two thousand years of separation hasn't stopped modern man from still pining away in sin and error, desperately searching for answers in places where they will never be found.

So thank God for Christmas - a yearly opportunity to remember that what the prophet Isaiah foretold, what the Bethlehem manger fulfilled, it still bids men fall to their knees in humble gratitude:

The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

**That light was, is, and will forever be Christ our Lord.**

Wow! Wow! Wow!

The second article, "Rebels for Christ", by J.B. Shurk, one of the best writers for American Thinker is just as powerful. Mr. Shurk speaks of the necessity of our rebelling against injustice and evil, of which there is much in this age.



## American Thinker

**Rebels For Christ**  
by J.B. Shurk (excerpts)

I admit that there is a rebellious streak in me. I am fond of rule-breakers who stand unafraid against evil. Rebellion for rebellion's sake can be just as detrimental as injustice. Yet rebellion against injustice so that one may remain obedient to God is surely righteous. And when you say it out loud in that way — will you choose man's laws or God's? — the answer is obvious. So, I have always had a soft spot in my heart for God's devout and indefatigable troublemakers.

He then tells stories of several Bible smugglers who go into dangerous places like Iran, China, and others that hate Christianity and try to stamp it out at all costs. But we cannot all be doing "spectacular" stuff. We can stand for God's Truth in the place where He put us. Mr. Shurk concludes his article:

You do not have to become an international spy in order to be one of Brother Andrew's "rebels and radicals" for Christ. God blessed us each with special talents, and with these talents, we each have special obligations. It is up to each one of us to do what we can when we can with steadfast determination. Rebelling against the evils of this world requires no additional invitation.

Among his many sermons on the importance of sacrifice and hard work, English greengrocer and lay preacher Alfred Roberts attested: "There is no promise of ease for the faithful servant of the Cross, and there is no bypass round Calvary. You will have to be a man of humble heart and paradoxically also a man of authority. God wants no faint hearts for his ambassadors. He wants man, who having communed with heaven, can never be intimidated by the world."

That's invaluable advice. No matter how small we may feel, when we act with God in our hearts, we have nothing to fear. We become the rock around which those with no resolve must move. Roberts knew that humanity's salvation depends on humanity's character and, therefore, he spent a great deal of time forging in others indestructible souls filled with virtue, tenacity, and perseverance. By many measures, he was successful, but he is remembered most for the moral strength of his daughter — known all over the world simply as the Iron Lady [Margaret Thatcher – LG].

You never know when your seemingly mundane words or actions might light a flame of courage in someone else. You do not know how your good example might affect another's future. So speak bravely and live your life as if curious eyes are constantly watching. Be a person of both gentleness and authority. Be one of God's valiant ambassadors. Be fearless, while others quiver. Be rebellious against injustice and defiant against evil. And remember this: no matter what tyrant rises or what iniquity spreads, God's faithful children have nothing to dread.

AMEN, and AMEN!!!

*Linda Gommel*

### On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

