

## LOOKING BACKWARDS AND FORWARD



Yes, I know that we're into January by several days now, so what's with this stuff from Christmastime? That's the "looking backwards" part of the title.

This last Christmas seemed a little odd, in that it didn't feel very Christmas-y this year. So many people of my generation (born in the 40s and 50s) have passed on, many who would celebrate Christmas fully with baked goodies, Christmas cards, full-blown decorations, and gifts. This year there was very little of that, at least in my little world.

What did impress me significantly this time was the message attached to the reason we celebrate Christmas. You've "heard" me say (write) it before, that Jesus entered the world to offer us fallen, broken, self-centered, yes, even evil human beings a way to come home to God our Father and reconcile with Him. Why this time?

The danger to those of us who make our life's aim to serve God with all our hearts and souls is that we've heard this "gospel" so often that it becomes a cliché that we parrot almost mindlessly. And then we can dismiss Christmas as the shallow, off-putting children's story of a baby in a manger and little more.

This year, as I prepared to cynically descend into my "hurry-up-and-get-this-over-with" mode, I was struck by the life-and-death importance of the real story of Christmas, one that has little to do with babies in mangers, wise men bearing gifts, and shepherds guarding their flocks by night. Yes, those are meaningful aspects of the traditional Bible-based stories of Christmas, but they can divert us from what matters most: Christmas should be our celebration of thanksgiving to God that He came to earth Himself in human flesh, to offer to us reconciliation with Him and life eternal once we have accepted the offer.

This excerpt by Jeff Lewis in American Thinker can cause us to think about what the world would be like without the advent of God in human form, bringing us His Light and His Spirit. Mr. Lewis mentions the movie classic "It's a Wonderful Life", in which the main character is depressed at his failure as a man but gets shown what his little town and family would be if he weren't there. Thus Mr. Lewis draws the parallel to this world, if Christ hadn't been here.

### A World Without Christ?

*American Thinker* By Jeff M. Lewis, 12/25/24

A world in which Christ had never been born, and therefore a world in which there was no Christmas and no Christian faith or influence, would be a dystopian nightmare

we can only fearfully imagine. Without Jesus, we would have no example of the self-giving, sacrificial love of the Son of God or of God the Father who sent His only Son to redeem the world from our sin—our separation from and rebellion against God

If Jesus had never been born, it would be "always winter, but never Christmas." We would be left cold, without hope. There would be estrangement, with no redemption, no peace. There would be darkness and very little discernable or perceptible light.

Now, looking forward, in light of our re-realization of what Christmas really can mean to us, here are two more excerpts from the amazing American Thinker website that show us the path forward. LET US PRAY!!

### This Christmas, Let Us Pray

*American Thinker*, J.B. Shurk, 12/25/24

It is arguably the most iconic image from the American Revolution. You can find drawings, paintings, and sculptures commemorating its significance in town halls, courthouses, libraries, churches, and veterans' associations throughout the country. . . . the image of which I write is of George Washington kneeling in silent prayer near the Continental Army's winter encampment at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, in December 1777. . . .

You can conjure that picture in your mind almost immediately — the tall, striking figure of General George Washington with knee and sword touching the snowy

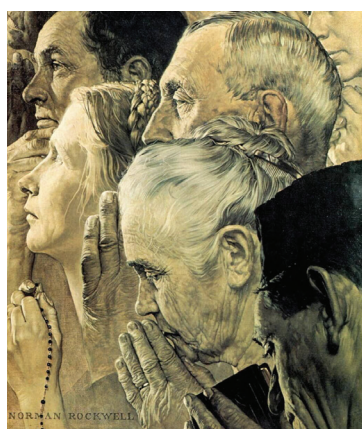


ground, his military coat draped around his shoulders, his cocked hat removed and at his side, his bare fingers firmly interlaced, and his head bowed in solemn contemplation. To his right stands Blueskin, Washington's strong and noble war horse whose fearlessness during battle was well known. Blueskin's whitish-gray coat blends with Washington's whitish-grey wig, while the war horse's visibly cold breath blends with the frigid Pennsylvania snow. A ray of morning light crosses before the general and his loyal companion, as both man and horse appear intimately aware of God's presence.

. . . Officers recorded in their own writings General Washington's habit of praying each morning and whenever he presumed to be alone. Washington regularly encouraged others to be obedient servants of God. . . . George Washington continually sought God's blessing, and he continually directed those under his command to be God's instruments here on Earth. Those facts are often overlooked in modern history books. . . .

As stories of Valley Forge reached American colonists, a shared national bond formed around the army's suffering. The soldiers' sacrifice united disparate peoples into one country. One story, however, transcended the rest — that of General George Washington praying in the Pennsylvania snow. That image was treasured and reproduced and passed through each generation to the present. Those who fought and died for America sent us a clear message: there can be no America unless we Americans are obedient to God.

This Christmas, let us listen to our ancestors. Let us bow our heads. And let us pray.



### Our National Near-Death Experience

*American Thinker* by Deana Chadwell, 12/23/24

America is just coming-to after a near-death experience. We came within a hair's breadth of ceasing to be America. If November 5th hadn't been so decisive, we'd still be counting (and manufacturing) votes. If Trump hadn't been so decisive, so ready to jump right in and get started, we'd all be disappointed cynical. This election has brought us back to life. . . .

You see, we Americans pray. Not every one of us; it's not required for citizenship, but millions of us have been addressing the God of the Bible and He answers prayers.

"Whatsoever you ask, believing, you shall receive." This is what receiving looks like.

And as we come out of our national coma, we're starting to see what evil looks like. It's been wearing a smiley face and whispering sweet little lies for decades now and that worked as long as we didn't wake up, but the sun is up now and we can see just how ugly the Left's plans are. . . .

I have a friend who, when you're midway through your litany of troubles, will raise her forefinger and say, "But God." . . . We're coming face-to-face with the need for universal morality, for help from an omnipotent, benign, personal God -- someone bigger, more dependable than ourselves. We need eternal life, not death. We need the Father.

AMEN!

Linda Gammel

## LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

**Monday, JANUARY 27th**

**5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge**

on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

LVEDA provides an important community forum recognized by County, State, and Local Representatives. Supports real economic development consistent with our rural goals. Opposes projects that harm our land-use integrity and quality of life.

**Is something bugging you?  
COME TO THE NEXT MEETING  
TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!**

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

**IF YOUR CITY BANS STRAWS BUT HANDS OUT FREE NEEDLES...**



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PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

Y'all ever notice that the Washington monument looks absolutely NOTHING like George Washington??



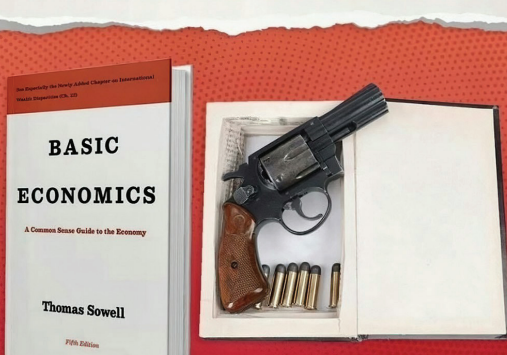
PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

**"I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will  
not walk in darkness, but  
will have the light of life."**

John 8:12

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**EVERY AMERICAN TO  
CONGRESS TODAY**