



December 24, 2013

Dear Friends in Christ,

Again this year, I enjoyed watching the time-honored "Christmas Carol" classic by Charles Dickens. This was the more-recent life-like animation version. It impressed me anew as I pondered the positive message of *New Life* it emphasized, seen in the newly-transformed "Christmassy" Scrooge—reflected in his warm and compassionate relationships towards one and all, most of all the poor Cratchit family. It greatly contrasted the grumpy, self-absorbed Scrooge, which we too can easily act-out in the hustle and bustle of life, and neglect to live out the new life in Christ, which it's really all about.

As I pondered the focal point that Dickens had crafted into his story, I realized it resounded the clarion ring of the heavenly message the angels delivered to the shepherds on that Judean hillside, "*Good Tidings of Great Joy to All... Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Mankind,*" of which our Savior's arrival is recorded in the following Scripture portions:

When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, [born] of a woman, [born] under the law,
⁽⁶⁾ To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (Galatians 4:4-5)

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ⁽¹¹⁾ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ⁽¹²⁾ And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ⁽¹³⁾ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ⁽¹⁴⁾ "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*" (Luke 2:10-14)

NOW, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, ⁽²⁾ Saying, "*Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*" (Matthew 2:1-2)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ⁽¹⁷⁾ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:16-17)

In closing, may the Lord Jesus Christ richly bless you and yours, and grant you a blessed and meaningful Christmastime... Celebrated in your relationship with God above, as well as among friends and family here below, throughout the coming New Year...

Ron Myers

Ron & Cheryl Myers
 Missionaries to Thailand
www.IsanBible.org

