

On The Frontier

“for the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel”

Happy Holidaze

by Linus A. Mathis III

I don't know about you, but the Holiday Season is my favorite time of year. This may seem a contradiction to those of you who know me (I have embraced a "Scrooge-like" persona on occasion). But, if the truth be known, I love this season. Why then, would someone with said affection grumble as Ebenezer?

First know that my misgivings have never been based upon anyone recognizing our Lord's birth. The most wonderful occurrence in all of history is the birth of Jesus Christ. (Yes, I know that technically he was not born in December). The fact is, I'm blessed anytime his precious name is mentioned. But when it comes to the day, I don't care what day you recognize (or don't recognize) and neither does God.

Romans 14:5-9

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day *alike*. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

He that regardeth the day, regardeth *it* unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard *it*. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

For none of us liveth to himself,

and no man dieth to himself.

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

The important thing is that God sent His Son. Mary did bring forth her firstborn and called his name JESUS. What a wonderful day that was! The promised seed (Genesis 3:15) had arrived. God's promise to redeem man was being fulfilled. The Saviour was born! Oh glory, how thankful we should be! His birth ushered in a new day for humanity. Dawn had broken and light, glorious light, had rushed in (Luke 2:25-40; Matthew 4:15,16). His birth was paramount to what is the greatest drama of all time, the redemption of man. An epic out of all proportion to foregoing concept. The Hope of mankind was born! If some reflect a bit more at this time, I joy and rejoice. I'd rather it were daily, but I'm happy ANYTIME my Master receives praise and recognition. What irks me is the worldliness. People are led to believe that love is measured by the dollar value of a retail acquisition. This time of year has become a time of accumulation rather than a time of joy. A time of stress and distress rather than a time of peace. Iniquity abounds because the love of so many has grown cold. High traffic days, long lines, poorly

made clothing and toys, technology that doesn't work and debt (Proverbs 22:7) have nothing in common with God's gift to us (I Timothy 6:3-6). Why include them in your plans?

My fondest Holiday memories revolve around time spent with my family in the wonderful Word of God. It's free too! His Word brings joy and peace, a soothing balm to comfort life's abrasions. These are some of the things I love. But, when it comes to materialistic lures which promise godliness, I say, "bah humbug."

Make up your mind to NOT become part of the "Holidaze." Don't shackle your life by mortgaging your future. If you can't afford it, don't buy it. Love seeks no credit approval. Why walk in a worldly daze when you can walk with the Father? Spend time on your family instead of money. If you don't have a biological family, may I suggest the family of God. After all, spirit is thicker than blood. Get with God's people, there's no place like "home" for the holidays.

*Happy Holidays
from our household
to yours!*

•γαρπη
[agaper]