

## ‘Tis The Season

During the month of December, every year, the United States celebrates a national holiday. It is, traditionally, a time of shopping, decorations, singing, lights, and parties. This time of year is a little bit different from other seasons. Perhaps it is the fact that cold air begins to drift in and there is a possibility that rain will turn to snow. In some areas of the country, the ground is already a powdery white and in others, ice has formed a glaze upon the landscape. Generally, it is also the case that people are more apt to be kind and generous during this time of year. It is a season known for joy, as the Christmas carol proclaims. However, the time for joy is not based upon what time of year it is, a particular climate, nor any holiday season. The time for joy and happiness is the present, no matter what time of year it may be. What better source for true joy and happiness than He who is able to save our soul? “For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, **now** is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation**” (2 Corinthians 6:2, emphasis B.G.). It has been well-stated, “There’s no time like the present.” However, each year, many wait eleven months before being kind, generous, considerate, and “jolly.” In like manner, many will wait, until it is too late, to submit themselves to the commands of God. “The Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10). We should take advantage of the fact that God has given us this day rather than taking it for granted.

Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away (James 4:13-14).

Our society has become accustomed to thinking about Christ only during the time of a holiday season instituted by man (i.e. December 25<sup>th</sup>). We should, however, render our lives a sacrifice to God everyday (Romans 12:1-2) and not merely give the appearance of devotion to Christ during a particular season. Consider how sad and hopeless our lives as Christians would be if our dear Lord chose to watch over His children only during one season of the year! Yet, many in society, some who even claim to be Christians, choose to focus on the Christ only during the holiday season, a “convenient season” for the world to offer what they consider to be “praise” to our Savior, and then forget Him during less “convenient” times throughout the rest of the year until the holidays roll around once more. Remember the response Felix gave to Paul, “Go thy way for this time; when I have **a convenient season**, I will call for thee” (Acts 24:25, emphasis B.G.). The problem with procrastination is the fact that there may not be a tomorrow (James 4:13-14). The problem with designating a certain season of the year as the time to celebrate the birth of Christ is the fact that it is not authorized by God. God specified that Sunday, the first day of each week, is the time to worship Him (Acts 20:7) and the Christian is to live faithfully every day. We cannot be like Felix and wait for a more “convenient season” to be obedient and joyful. Godly obedience should be part of a faithful Christian’s year-round lifestyle, a lifestyle which will naturally result in joy felt throughout the entire year. “But godliness with

contentment is great gain” (1 Timothy 6:6). The present truly is the “day of salvation,” because it is the only time that we know for sure exists.

### **NOW IS THE TIME:**

- \* To “come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4) by **HEARING** the Word of God (Romans 10:17).
- \* To “**BELIEVE** that He (*God*) is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6, emphasis B.G.).
- \* “To **REPENT**: Because He (*God*) hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man (*Jesus Christ*) whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31, emphasis B.G.).
- \* To **CONFESS** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10).
- \* To **BE BAPTIZED** in order to have your past sins forgiven (Acts 2:38), to be added by God to His Church (Acts 2:47), and to be saved (1 Peter 3:21).
- \* To **BE FAITHFUL** (1 Corinthians 4:2; Hebrews 5:8-9).

‘Tis the season to obey God’s plan of salvation and begin your life as a Christian, a child of God, a member of the Church for which Christ died. ‘Tis the season to remain faithful to God until death (1 John 1:6-9; Revelation 2:10). ‘Tis the season, not because it is December, nor because of the celebrations and festivities occurring this time of year. ‘Tis the season, because tomorrow may be too late.

– *Brad Green*