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Theme: "Doing God's Work - Christmas Spirit 365"

Scripture: Luke 2:11-14 (KJV)

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

A Thought: On Christmas Day we celebrate the miracle of our Lord's birth. In the above scripture the angel was not just telling us about a birth of a baby but that God became man. He came to transform each of us from our sinful nature. The blood on the cross is evidence of His love. His grace is endless and our faithfulness will never match His love for us. Moreover, we rejoice that the Holy Spirit has been bestowed upon us. What is our covenant to Him? Well, take a look as the angels cry out "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The last verse of the scripture is the embodiment of our responsibility to our fellow humans three hundred and sixty-five days of the year. Not an easy task says you! To the contrary, according to a recent report by the Charities Aid Foundation fellow human beings throughout the world have practiced "good will toward men." ...with money and volunteerism. Furthermore, religious observant Americans are more generous according to Robert D. Putnam (*Bowling Alone*) and David E. Campbell in their recent book, *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*, "*Religiously observant Americans are more generous with time and treasure than demographically similar secular Americans. This is true for secular causes (especially help to the needy; the elderly; and young people) as well as for purely religious causes. It is true even for most random acts of kindness.*" Kudos to humankind! Acts 20:35 (ESV) "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- What steps have you taken or plan to take to open your heart to others?
- Love and charity begins at home - do you agree? Take the appropriate steps. Let your yes be yes and your no be no.
- Stay on track by reading the Word.

Scriptures to read: Matthew 6:1-4, 10:42; Luke 6:38, 21:1-4; John 3:16; 1Corinthians 9:14; Ephesians 3:20; 1Timothy 6:17-19; 1 John 3:17, 14:27; Deuteronomy 15:7-8; Proverbs 21:13, 11:24-25; Psalm 41:1-3; Isaiah 32:8

Quote: President George Washington in his Farewell Address: *“of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.”* (Book: American Grace, Authors, Robert D. Putman and David E. Campbell.

Bottom Line: May the New Year bring you closer to God and may you experience the love and blessings that only He can give you unconditionally. The birth of Jesus transformed the world and we should take heed to His love and admonitions. From the beginning pages of Genesis to the closing chapters of Revelation are words that breathe life into our souls. May you be diligent in your walk with the Lord and always abide by the Royal Law (ESB 2001) *“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well.”* Therefore gents, be constant and reach out to those close to you....your spouse, family, neighbors, friends and to strangers. (Job 26:11 ESB) *“If they obey and serve Him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment.”*

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler,

Your bro, Ray