

Reawaking The Joy Inherent In Christmas

Luke 1:68-79; 1 Peter 3:18

(Humbug to Hallelujah Series)

Highline Christian Church

December 8, 2002

There is a medical term for the Holiday Blues: **S.A.D.**, which stands for "**S**_____ **A**_____ **DISORDER.**"

What Causes The Blues?

1. Unrealistic E_____.
2. Financial P_____.
3. Busy S_____.
4. Family C_____.

"Do not be conformed any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Rom 12:2

HOW CAN WE AWAKEN THE JOY?

1. We can write down all the "God-_____" of this past year.
2. We can focus on the memories that bring us _____.
3. We can let the Living Lord touch and redeem the _____ memories.

We can bring our memories before the Lord in prayer and ask him to transform them by his presence. We can ask him to reveal himself in them so that he gives us, in effect, a new memory of our memories. Psalm 139:5-6 (The Message)

1. RETHINK YOUR E_____.

"...to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of sins, because of the tender mercy of our

God...to shine light in the darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." Luke 1:77-79

Instead of asking "What will this Christmas be like _____?" ask yourself, "**What will _____ this Christmas?**"

2. RETHINK YOUR O_____.

"...to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days." Luke 1:74-75

Solomon said... "*A generous man will prosper. He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.*"

3. RETHINK YOUR C_____.

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people." Luke 1:68

This purpose is summed up in 1 Peter 3:18 in what God has done for us...

"For Christ dies for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

A. Let's Celebrate God's Wonderful S_____.

B. Let's Celebrate God's Wonderful M_____.

The word "**r**_____" describes someone whose actions are perfectly consistent with their beliefs--a person of absolute integrity.

C. Let's Celebrate God's Wonderful D_____.

Peter must have had in mind the "*prosogogeus*" the "official _____"