

12/11/17

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Two weeks from today will be Christmas Day. In 15 days, Christmas will be over. Except for leftovers and decorations, Christmas will be past. Is that how Christians celebrate Christmas? Mary has given us an example to follow.

Sinful Mary was filled with fear when Gabriel appeared to her. He told her that she would become pregnant and give birth to the Son of God, the Savior of the world. This caused her to have a bunch of questions. Mary knew biology. She knew that it took a man and a woman to conceive a child. She was still a virgin. She wondered how this was all going to happen. The angel told her that she would conceive by the Holy Spirit. The child she would conceive and give birth to would not have a human father.

With her fears removed and her questions answered, Mary's humble faith and trust in the Lord responded. *"I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said."* (Luke 1:39). In all humility she was willing to obey the Lord's commands. She was thrilled to serve the Lord. Mary was filled with joy when Jesus was born. Sure, she struggled with being the mother of Jesus and a servant of the Lord at the same time, yet she was filled with joy. A sword pierced her soul when she stood at the foot of her boy's, her Savior's cross. Can you imagine the joy that filled her heart when her son, her Savior, gave her a hug after He rose from the dead? In reality, her joy, her humble service to the Lord, never came to an end.

When will Christmas end for you? As a Christian wouldn't you want Jesus to be your Savior as you walk through this life into eternal life? Jesus serves you with His

forgiveness every single day of your life. Jesus came into this world, died on the cross, so that you could be with Him in heaven forever. Because of what Jesus did for you and gives to you, don't you want to serve Him every single day of your life? Mary's life was filled with joy as she served the Lord. Your life's joy is found in being the Lord's servant. Daily ask the Lord, "What can I do for You, Lord Jesus, who has done so very much for me?" Give yourself and your total obedience to the Lord all of your life as your daily Christmas gift to Him.

Prayer: *Dear Lord in heaven, daily fill my heart with love for You so that I may serve You every moment of my life as a Christmas gift to You. Amen. ...See you in church.*

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

Pastor Alan W. Gumm

Phone: [630-947-4317](tel:630-947-4317)

E-Mail: revagumm@hotmail.com