



A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

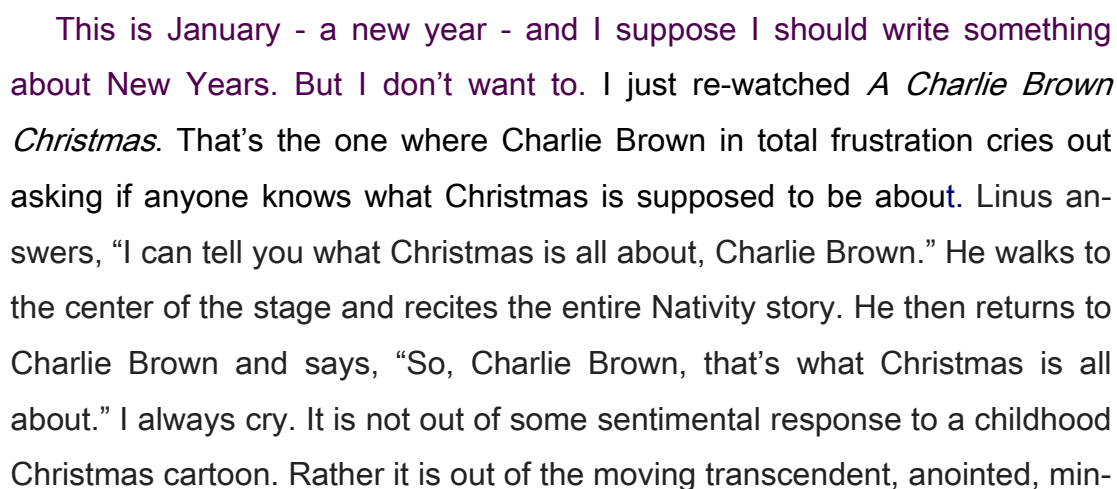
Drop Your Fear 1-2

Wrong Shall Fail 3

Closing Thoughts 4

Dear Friends,

Fear not, little flock;
for it is your Father's good pleasure
to give you the kingdom.
(Luke 12:32)



ute and thirty-two seconds of Christ-exalting beauty conveyed in that cartoon. It is about the Spirit of truth and love that it conveys.

Yet, there are also other less overt but just as powerful images in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Did you ever notice that when Linus gets to the line, **“Fear not, for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord,”** Linus drops his blanket? It is still lying there as he completes his quotation. This birth means you can drop your fear, lay down your insecurities and childish habits, and look up. This One who is come has made it possible for you to go free of your fears.

Then there is the scene where Charlie Brown goes to get a Christmas tree. He is told by the other kids to get the biggest shiniest one he can, but he returns with a scrawny little tree that has no beauty. Charlie Brown says, "This one looked like it needed a home." Its scrawny ugly smallness was closer to the Spirit of the season and not any kin to the modern spirit. **For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, a root out of dry ground...He had no beauty or stateliness that we should look upon Him, no appearance that we should desire Him or be attracted to Him. He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. (Isaiah 53)** Of course Charlie Brown is despised and rejected for his despised and rejected tree. When he tries to decorate it, the top can't hold up and bends all the way over to the ground. Charlie Brown laments his broken condition and cries out that he can't do anything right! The symbolism becomes clear to all of us who have experienced our own Charlie Brown bentness. We all need to fall before the Root out of dry ground. The gospel in this cartoon is unmistakably clear.

Yet there is even more wonder revealed. When Linus' blanket is wrapped around the base of the fallen tree that Charlie Brown's brokenness had 'killed', it is clearly resurrected from death **and shining with the glory of the Heavenly Light**. So...I guess Linus' message to Fear Not and to lay your insecurity blanket at the foot of the tree IS a good New Years' message after all. In the face of whatever may be on the horizon, **"Fear not, for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."**





And He will be their *peace*... Micah 5:5

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th' unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

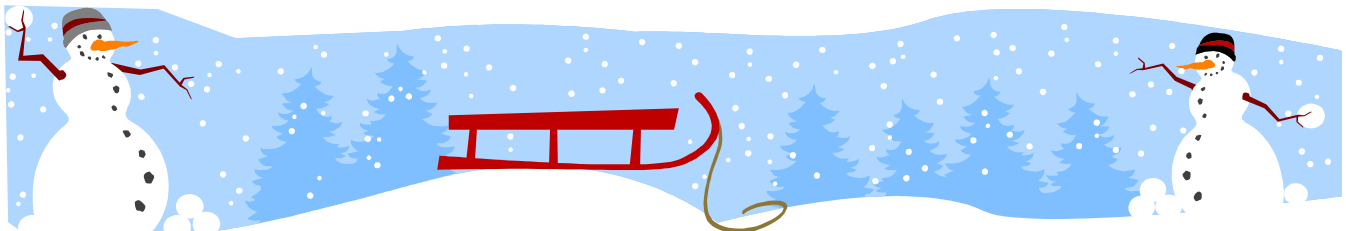
And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."

by Henry W. Longfellow



Happy New Year!



Closing Thoughts...



Please know how seriously we take the privilege of being invited into your world once a month. We long to send you truth spoken in love, in the power of the Holy Spirit. I know how many times in my life a recorded message made all the difference for me in helping me rise above whatever battle I found myself in. May the Holy Spirit fill each message with help, hope, and healing grace. We are about to embark on a New Year and a new series of Nightlight messages. Pray for us that we can hear His heart for you and offer what your heart needs from Him. It is an honor to do so.

Blessed New Year, Clay & Mary



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