

Outline

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. ³⁰ Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine.

Season our season so it smells and tastes of Christ

I. Glorifying Jesus through Our Words

Let your conversations be always full of grace, seasoned with salt." Colossians 4:6

- Glorifying Jesus by How We Greet People

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

³ *Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. ⁴ They risked their lives for me.*

Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia.

⁷ *Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.*

¹⁰ *Greet Apelles, whose fidelity to Christ has stood the test.*

¹¹ *Greet Herodion, my fellow Jew.*

Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

¹² *Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord.*

Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord. Romans 16:2-12

- Glorifying Jesus by Guarding Our Tongue

II. Glorifying Jesus by Our Actions

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. 2 Corinthians 3:2

It's been a long time since Linda Nelson last celebrated Christmas. She became an atheist after years of searching through the Bible and discussing it with members of the Church of Christ, a group that doesn't believe in Christmas.

"I debated myself right out of the church, Nelson said. I became an atheist because I read the Bible. Look what's in there: animal sacrifices, eating the body and the blood...yuck! If you want to celebrate Christmas that's fine with me. I work in a woman's clothing shop and we sing and play carols all the time. I've been to several holiday parties already and the name of Jesus doesn't even come up."

Nelson said one benefit of atheism is being free from the traditional holiday shopping ordeal. "I see people coming into the store with their eyes glazed over from shopping. They ask me I I have my shopping done. I tell them I don't have any Christmas shopping to do. They tell me how lucky I am!"

*Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in pandemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world. Some signs and symptoms of virus:*

- *A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.*
- *An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.*
- *A loss of interest in judging and condemning other people.*
- *A loss of interest in conflict.*
- *A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)*
- *Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation and generosity.*
- *Spontaneous singing of Carols and other music fitting the season.*
- *Contented feelings of connectedness.*
- *Frequent attacks of smiling and/or joviality.*
- *A sudden loss of self-centeredness.*
- *An increasing tendency to let go of control and allow God to be God.*
- *Spontaneous acts of kindness and joy spreading!*
- *An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.*

Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many people. Some people have been completely cleaned up because of it.

Some suggestions to avoid catching the virus, boost your immune system by:

- *Staying away from people who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior.*
- *Continuing to celebrate Christmas like everyone else and avoid new spiritual practices.*
- *Focusing solely on yourself and your immediate family.*
- *Finding excuses to avoid worship and time with God.*
- *Do not open messages that speak of forgiveness, reconciliation, peace, joy, faith, hope and love. And especially do not open the It's Friday email from FPC!*