

End of Year Financial Update

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- December Giving: ~ \$360,000
- Remaining Need ~ \$16,000
- Amount Needed to Hit Budget ~\$116,000



O Holy Night



December 17th Long Lay the World in Sin and
Error Pining

Christmas Eve 'Til He Appeared and The Soul
Felt It's Worth

Today A Thrill of Hope, the Weary
World Rejoices

January 7th, 2018 For Yonder Breaks a New and
Glorious Morn

A detailed nativity scene set in a rustic, mountainous landscape. The central focus is a stable with a thatched roof, where the infant Jesus lies in a manger. The stable is surrounded by various figures, including shepherds, wise men, and villagers. In the background, there is a brick house and several evergreen trees. The scene is filled with intricate details, such as animals like sheep and a dog, and various household items. The overall atmosphere is one of a peaceful, rural setting.

O Holy Night

A Thrill of Hope, the Weary World Rejoices



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A Thrill of Hope, the Weary World Rejoices

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

CCLI #1181771

Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining,

It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,

Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,

A Christmas Carol



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Long lay the world in sin and error pining,

Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,

“The weary world...”

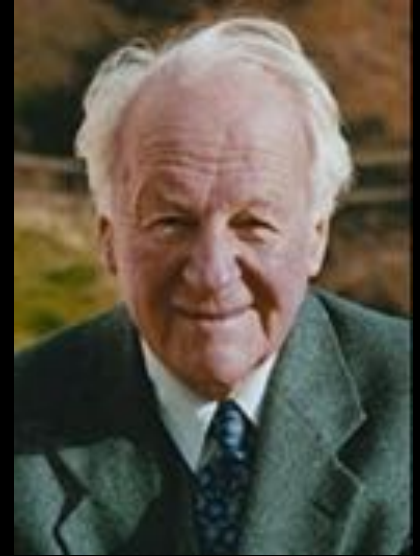
Romans 1:18-20

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

“The weary world...”

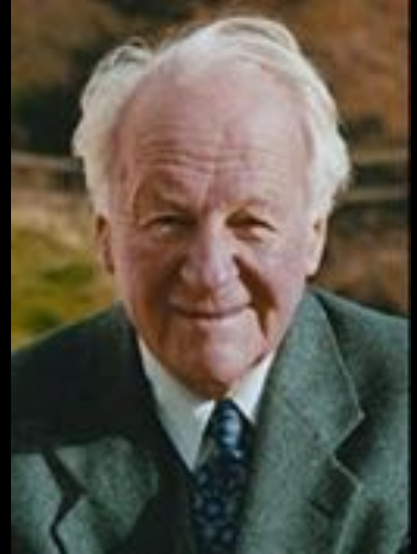
²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

...”For what Paul says here is that through general revelation people can know God’s power, deity and glory (not his saving grace through Christ), and that this knowledge is enough not to save them but rather to condemn them, because they do not live up to it.



Instead, they *suppress the truth by their wickedness* (18), so that they are *without excuse* (20). It is against this willful human rebellion that God's wrath is revealed."

John Stott – The Message of Romans,
pg. 74



“The weary world...”

Ephesians 2:1-2

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

“The weary world...”

Ephesians 2:12

¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.



“The weary world...”

“You are fettered,” said Scrooge, trembling. “Tell me why?”

“I wear the chain I forged in life,” replied the Ghost. “I made it link by link and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to *you*?”

Scrooge trembled more and more.

“The weary world...”

“Or would you know,” pursued the Ghost, “the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? ...It is a ponderous chain!”

...“Jacob,” he said, imploringly. “Old Jacob Marley, tell me more. Speak comfort to me, Jacob!”

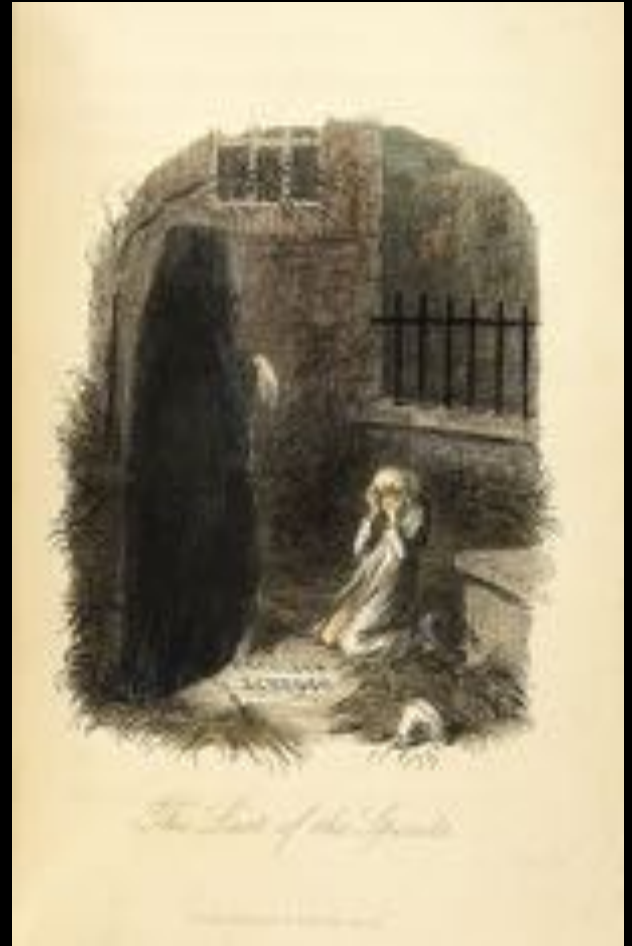
“I have none to give,” the Ghost replied.

Scrooge's Journey



Is There Any Hope?

“Good Spirit,” he pursued, as down upon the ground he fell before it: “Your nature intercedes for me, and pities me. Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!”



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Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given,

and the government will be on
his shoulders. *...A thrill of*

And he will be called

hope..."

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his
government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

*“...A thrill of
hope...”*

“...A thrill of hope...”

Ephesians 2:13-16

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.





“... a thrill of hope...”

“I don't know what to do!” cried Scrooge, laughing and crying in the same breath; and making a perfect Laocoön of himself with his stockings. “I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school-boy.



“... a thrill of hope...”

I am as giddy as a drunken man.
A merry Christmas to every-
body! A happy New Year to all
the world! Hallo here! Whoop!
Hallo!” ...

“...A thrill of hope...”

“Our health may fail. Our relationships and careers may run off the rails. Armies and economies and nations may collapse under the weight of their power lust. But Christian hope lives because our Redeemer lives.

Hope says God has not abandoned us in the world. His story is that He pursues us, dwells in us, intervenes for us and will not forget us when He finally determines to set the world to rights.

“...A thrill of hope...”

There will be tears in our eyes, but He will wipe them away. There will be death and decay, but He will cause newness and resurrection to spring forth. While the grave remains – for now – it’s hope that erases its victory. And while death remains – for now – it’s hope that has wiped out its sting.”

Scott McClellan ~ Why Hope Isn't Just Optimism

What is Our Response?

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“...rejoices...”

Romans 15:7-13

⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹ and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

“...rejoices...”

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing the praises of your name.”

¹⁰ Again, it says,

“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹ And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples extol him.”

“...rejoices...”

¹² And again, Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Response of a Changed Man



....Really, for a man who had been out of practice for so many years, it was a splendid laugh, a most illustrious laugh. The father of a long, long line of brilliant laughs!

Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more, and to Tiny Tim, who did **NOT** die, he was a second father. He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew,...

Gospel Response

Will your joy in Jesus bring the hope of the Gospel to a weary world this year?