

Gospel Reflections | December 2012

12-2-12

There is, therefore, an element in the Gospel narratives that stresses that the coming of Jesus is a disturbing event of the deepest proportions. It had to be thus, for He did not come merely to add something extra to life, but to deal with our spiritual insolvency and the debt of our sin. He was not conceived in the womb of Mary for those who have done their best, but for those who know that their best is “like filthy rags” (Isa. 64:6)—far from good enough—and that in their flesh there dwells no good thing (Rom. 7:18). He was not sent to be the source of good experiences, but to suffer the pangs of hell in order to be our Savior.

-Nathan W. Bingham

12-9-12

But as we'll learn throughout Advent – just wait. Wait, even amidst the disappointments that steal your joy. Wait and see the newness, the life, and the freedom that emerges when life is lived in God's sacred rhythm. Wait and long for the coming Messiah at Christmas, when we're all re-awakened to that wondrous reality of God's profound condescension. Wait– and don't rush – through this season so full of busyness, but so pregnant with purpose and joy.

-Chuck Degroat

12-23-12

But the relationship between work and rest operates at a deeper level as well. All of us are haunted by the work under the work---that need to prove and save ourselves, to gain a sense of worth and identity. But if we can experience gospel-rest in our hearts, if we can be free from the need to earn our salvation through our work, we will have a deep reservoir of refreshment that continually rejuvenates us, restores our perspective, and renews our passion.

-Tim Keller

12-30-12

"Plan in the New Year-

The Proverbs teach us to plan. The greatest missionary who ever lived was a planner. God is a God who does all things according to plan. And Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem because of the most loving plan ever devised.

He planned for our joy; we ought to plan for his glory."

-John Piper