

# A Christmas Revival

“Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: and the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” Isaiah 59:1–2

What if this Christmas changed your life like never before? What if you realized you were playing at faith, on the periphery of the most important discovery you had ever made? What if you gave your heart totally to the one who came from heaven just for you? Talk about the mountains falling and the valleys being filled in! Miracles still happen!

People have said it before, in most every generation, but we must stop and listen to God before we destroy ourselves and the world we live in. People get so focused on living, running, and trying to keep up with the ways of the world that they remain skating on the surface of life. They never find the beauty and meaning that God makes possible.

Stephen Pressfield, a noted author, who wrote among other things *The Legend of Bagger Vance*, wrote, “The disease of our times is that we live on the surface. We’re like the Platte River; a mile wide and an inch deep.”

God brings depth and perspective to a life gone wrong. A level road for the messiah is after much digging and blasting. There are so many important things to be coped with in life, and faith provides the only leveling force which works. The heavenly level makes the carpenter’s level look very small. And it gives perspective on so many levels.

“Christmas,” writes British Prime Minister David Cameron, “gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us - a time when we can look back on the year that has passed and prepare for the year ahead.”

So what must be filled in? What valleys must be filled in our own lives? Perhaps sin has dragged us down to the depths we never thought we would go. Maybe our life is empty of purpose, for we have gone as far as we could go and that is nowhere, when we finally realize it.

Sin is the valley our world has sunk to. Just look at the news, and another public figure has fallen. Just read the newspaper, and another act of violence has been committed. Churches are empty. Christian faith is mocked. And we think things are fine?

We need that heavenly bulldozer to cover the miles and miles of valleys where death, destruction, pride, and false worlds must be buried forever. Instead of Christmas being a time where we return to faith for a moment, it must be a time when we vow and promise that we will always be a child of God, and that Jesus is indeed our redeemer and king.

What we need is revival. We are dead, and God must breathe his spirit into us and bring us back to life, like the valley of dry bones of the annals of Scripture. Good desires and helpful hearts must be planted deep to grow toward heaven.

We must see the Bible as THE book to read. We must see the week as incomplete without the Sabbath. We must find that humility and love are the orders of the day. And we must find the true reason for Christmas, and for living, as we were shown when we were children.

“I believe,” says Ryan Zinke, the present U.S. Secretary of the Interior, “in the value of life. I believe we must prepare our children for tomorrow with the family values of my grandparents.”

What is wrong this Christmas with the world? We have abandoned the faith and values of our grandparents, and somehow think we have something better.

You had better believe that most of our grandparents grew up in a world where God was in charge. My grandparents on both sides were in church on Sunday morning, and closed the law office and laid the crops by so they could be there.

Part of preparing the way for Christmas is to pray for clean-swept highways of faith. That mountains of pomposity will be blown up and valleys of darkness will be filled in with the rubble.

And after we rise from our knees, we make plans with our family to go and worship the new born Savior. And, for God’s sake, we never enter the door alone. We always bring someone with us to behold the salvation of the Lord.

When God speaks, creation happens. Christmas takes place. May our hearts and world prepare for a Christmas of all Christmases!