

Luke 2:10

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Merry CHRISTmas from the Grismers,

Man's news is ever changing and unstable. Good news, bad news... Better news, worse news. Hope turns to nope. Market is up, market is down... a child is found, a child isn't found.

Some of man's news is good and bad at the same time. Needed rain ending the drought means farmers lose topsoil and landslides threaten houses. Ultimate justice is served against an evil... but that doesn't reverse the evil.

So where is all the Christmas cheer? Well, it's not in man's ever changing news. Christmas cheer is God's never changing news: **Good tidings of great joy – to all people.** Christmas cheer is Jesus Christ born to save all people. And since God never changes, the good tidings the angels sounded to the shepherds some 2000 years ago is for us today!¹

Don't let man's unstable news discourage you. Fear not! and receive God's stable news: Lying in a manger the shepherds found a Child, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, Savior for all mankind.² And His promise is that all who truly seek Him will find Him.³

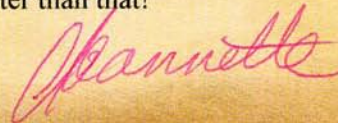
God's news of Christmas cheer gets even better with Easter because the baby Boy whose birthday we celebrate this December didn't remain a baby. He grew up to be a man and vanquished sin and death through the Cross and Resurrection so we all may receive eternal life.⁴ We thank God this Christmas for the unspeakable gift of giving His only begotten Son.⁵ And we thank Jesus for giving us the ultimate gift... His own life, to save ours.⁶

In 1922, Helen H. Lemmel penned the song well, *Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.* As we deliberately preoccupy ourselves with God's news, man's news becomes ancillary. Last night after a Board meeting, our dear friend John Ruttkay continued his tradition of taking us all out for a nice steak dinner. We all had rib-eyes. Still full today. I hardly even noticed my garlic mashed potatoes weren't very good because I was so preoccupied with that big, fat, juicy steak. The steak was so good that the potatoes just didn't matter much. When we focus on Christ, the things of earth just don't matter so much.

The world is a scary place these days. And it seems to be rapidly getting worse. But we needn't let man's news govern our lives. It will just change tomorrow anyway. Turn your eyes upon Jesus and let the Holy Spirit share God's news with you. It never changes. It's always good. And it's always in season.

Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart.⁷

It doesn't get any better than that!



GOD
RULES!

