

Isaiah 61:2 *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD ,*

Luke 4:19 *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD .*



Merry Christmas from the Grismers

We hope you all are happy, healthy and doing well!

In Christmas 2002, our dear friends Harald and Genevieve Bredesen wrote about a comma: "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen." It's not *merry gentlemen*. It's *merry rest*. Well, we could go for a bunch of that! How 'bout you?

This Christmas we're finding rest in another comma. Luke 4 tells about when Jesus went back to His home town of Nazareth early in His ministry. As was His custom, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. Asked to read from the Scroll, He found the place we call Isaiah 61. He read verse 1 and the first portion of verse 2 and stopped... at the comma. Where Isaiah put a comma, Jesus put a period.

Then He explained why. "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." That's because Jesus fulfilled this prophecy up to the comma in His first coming.

His audience understood that He was claiming to be the fulfillment of "the acceptable year of the LORD," that is, Spiritual Jubilee. To us it means that through Jesus Christ, we can reconcile all of our Spiritual debts with God.

For almost two thousand years we've been living in that comma between His first and second comings. As we survey the world around us we wonder, "How long until the comma ends and the remainder of Isaiah 61:2 '*and the day of vengeance of our God*' begins?" Jesus will fulfill this in His second coming.

That's exciting for us because we've accepted Christ's gift of redemption. But it's also sobering because we have friends who haven't received Christ as their Savior. It leaves us wanting to share the true meaning of Christmas with everyone we can, Jews and Greeks alike.

Jews and Greeks? In Acts 2 Peter preached "Repent" to the Jews who understood the Scriptures. In Acts 17, Paul preached differently to the Greeks. They had no knowledge of the Scriptures, so Paul first had to tell them who God was. Then they could understand what they needed to repent of and why.

You see, sharing the message of Christ is a lot like giving the perfect gift. Everybody is on someone's gift list. And everybody should get something specifically tailored just for them.

These days we're finding a wider variety of *Jews* and *Greeks* crossing our paths. So, as the experienced shopping mom searches just the right store at just the right time, let's take the same time and effort to wisely present the unchangeable truth of God's Son, Jesus Christ, to everyone we can.

We don't know when the comma is going to end, but it's closer today than it was yesterday. So let's get out and share The Gift of CHRISTmas while we're in the acceptable year of the Lord because,

God Rules!

Jeannette

