



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



The Right Gift at the Right Time

How would you like to make a \$350,000 return on a \$20 investment? That's not bad in an economy where current interest rates are below 2%. Kate McClure ran out of gas on Interstate 95 in Philadelphia. To make matters worse, she had no money in her purse. Johnny Bobbitt, Jr., a homeless veteran, saw the stranded car and approached Kate, who had stepped outside. Bobbitt approached her and told her to get back in the car and lock the doors while he walked a few blocks and bought her gas with his last \$20.00.

The rest is history. Bobbitt returned with gas, and McClure looked for a tangible way to say thanks and help this Good Samaritan. (The story Jesus told in Luke 10:25-38 describes a Samaritan who found a man after he had been beaten by robbers and left for dead along the roadside. The Good Samaritan placed the wounded stranger on his donkey, took him to an inn, left money with the innkeeper to care for him and promised when he returned he would pay any additional fees incurred.) As most Millennials do today, McClure created a GoFundMe page for Bobbitt and collected \$350,000.

We have heard of many situations where someone was stranded and became a victim of unfortunate circumstances. McClure's situation certainly afforded the possibility of a multitude of different negative outcomes. Bobbitt happened to be there in the right place at the right time, responding with the right attitude that precipitated the right use of his last resource to help someone else.

In the month of December, in the busyness of Christmas shopping, musicals, parties and dinners, we are reminded of a God who, right in the nick of time, acted out of compassion and sent forth His Son to be the Savior of the world (Galatians 4:4). Adam Clark described the event as "The time when God in His infinite wisdom counted best."

Albert Barnes wrote Christ's arrival was "The full time appointed by the Father."

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown refer to this moment as "The end of all preparation, the beginning of all

fulfillment, the maturity of man's spiritual need."

Regardless of how these commentators described the first Christmas, the idea is, when the time was right and mankind needed to be rescued, God sent His Son.

Kate McClure sought a tangible way to say thanks to her rescuer, and created a GoFundMe Page. Johnny Bobbitt, Jr. was homeless and destitute. He needed resources to get back on foot, and the GoFundMe donations made this possible. In God's rescue of mankind, He gave His only Son to redeem us from our destitute, sinful condition.

As the Creator of the Universe, God has no financial needs. He makes His home in a city where the streets are paved with gold (Revelation 21:21). There's no need to establish a GoFundMe Page for Him because of His heroic rescue. Our only reasonable expression of gratitude is to present our bodies to Him as living sacrifices, as Paul said in Romans 12:1.

Maybe you are on the Interstate of Life and your spiritual tank is empty. You find it challenging to experience the true spirit of Christmas this year. Take courage! The same God who sent His Son in the nick of time to save our dying world wants to provide hope for you today. You will find it through a relationship with Him!

If you've not found such a relationship, please follow the link [here](#) to learn how.

If you have a relationship with God, then look to Jesus Christ to fill this busy holiday season with a sense of purpose. You no longer have to simply go through the motions of the season and pretend you are having a good time; you can experience real joy. You were rescued from the weight of sin when Jesus gave His life for you. His assurance of salvation gives hope for the present and future. He has given us much — may we seek daily to give Him a large return on His investment. Merry Christmas to you and yours as you enjoy this marvelous hope!

Dr. L.W. Edwards

Gifts Which Will Outlast Your Supply Chain



Have supply chain shortages put a damper on your enthusiasm for Christmas shopping this year? You aren't the only one. After so many years of having everything we want for Christmas at our fingertips, the idea of a product shortage has many people worried. *What if I can't get that new computer for my son? What if my daughter won't be able to have the new phone she put on her list? What if our Christmas tree doesn't have as many presents underneath as we've had in the past? My Christmas will be ruined if I can't find the perfect gift.* Stress, anxiety, fear and anger soon occupy shelf space our hearts once filled with joy and peace. Isn't Christmas supposed to bring these in abundance?

The Arrival of Joy

Thankfully, joy and peace aren't in short supply. They came to stay on the first Christmas. Here's how it happened: An angel interrupted the Bethlehem Late Night Show as a group of local shepherds were working the evening shift. His sudden appearance nearly scared them to death.

A few men tickled their ears with blades of grass to make sure they hadn't been dreaming. This was no dream. The angel was very real and very present. And he had an all-points bulletin for them. A Savior — their Savior — had been born in a nearby barn. Joy had come to the world, and He was wearing Pampers.

Then things became even more interesting. Suddenly an entire host of angels showed up and filled the night with a chorus of praise to God: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" How could these angels proclaim peace on earth when their appearance inspired fear?

The Personality of Peace

The tranquil scene of barn animals and shepherds forming a perfect semi-circle around Jesus and His parents may make an ideal setting for artwork and nativity sets, but it's a long shot from reality. It certainly doesn't explain the source of peace. It may even mistakenly cause us to think peace was found in the quiet calm of the night, as the hymn "Silent Night" suggests. The peace of Christmas, like its counterpart Joy, was not based on the immediate circumstances of the season. It was found in the baby lying in the manger.

Isaiah 9:6 identifies Jesus as The Prince of Peace. Peace was a part of who He was. The Christmas child grew up and said in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." When everything is not right in our world, we can have peace, because we have Jesus. He overcame the world through His death on the cross and resurrection.

This means we can have peace when supply chains experience shortages. When we learn another item on our list is out of stock. When government inflation reduces the value of our money. When the economy slows to a standstill. When we battle a debilitating illness. When our family experiences a loss. When our employer terminates our job. When our weakness wins. When everything about our circumstances says otherwise, we can have peace.

Our quest for joy and peace ends with Jesus. Faith in Him won't prevent Christmas supplies from running out this Christmas, but it promises your joy and peace don't have to run out with them. There is an unending supply in Jesus. And no matter what happens, the outcome is under His control.

