

Yankee Steve's Column
for the Week of December 23, 2010

Christmas Message: Peace on Earth

The angels in Luke 2:14 sang to lowly shepherds - "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men." The passage quite literally reads in the original language, ". . . peace on earth to those who are the objects of divine good will."

Who are these objects of the divine good will? They are the people who know that unlike Jesus we are estranged from God at birth. Wanting to bridge that divide, we have taken to heart the words of the Apostle Paul, "be ye reconciled to God." [2 Corinthians 5:20b] Having taken that first step of faith we can say with the saints ". . . we have peace with God." [Romans 5:1] In the New Testament Jesus calls such people "friends" because they now oppose what God opposes, and love what God loves.

But there is a second kind of peace which the birth of Jesus brings to mind.

The Roman world into which Jesus was born was experiencing what scholars call the *Pax Romana* or the Peace of Rome. The doors of the temple of Jupiter on Rome's Capitol Hill were closed. Romans did not need to visit the temple and offer prayers for victory and peace. There was peace on earth. It was a good time to be alive. Caesar Augustus may have been a cunning fox, but he knew how to keep his enemies at bay.

Christianity recorded its greatest successes during the Pax Romana. This is why Paul in First Timothy, chapter 2, verses two to four, urges us to pray for our nation's leaders.

Paul knew that our leaders can plunge us into injurious wars which are also detrimental to the cause of true religion. Wars always foster lower kinds of religions, those that feed on the occult, religions not based on the Word of God. The occult made its great advances in America after the Civil War.

In fact, Paul is telling us that we should pray for President Barack Obama. I say this knowing full well that Obama's religion can be summed up in one word: Marxism.

Of course I do not mean that we should offer Obama an olive branch. No Christian or freedom-loving American could do that. Obama is an enemy of liberty, respected norms, and children not yet born. Instead, we should pray for him because he may be able to lead the nation to peace which will in the end prove to be good for the cause of Christ.

In particular, America has in its short history been involved in 11 major wars along with a lot of smaller skirmishes. We seem to be in love with war. The spirit of Teddy Roosevelt has descended upon us. The war in Iraq was nothing short of jingoism.

I have to think that we were not praying for our leaders when the Neocons seduced us into supposing that America would benefit from the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

America gained nothing. More importantly, the Christian church in Iraq lost everything. It has been decimated. So, pray for Obama and for Congress. Should peace come in our lifetime, Christian missions will rock; the occult will experience a major set-back, and sinners will repent, believe, and become the objects of the divine good will.

Merry Christmas,

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