**R774\_Rumination for 08 Dec. 2019**

The **T**heme: **It Pleased the Lord** [[berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *Yet* ***it******pleased the LORD*** *to bruise Him.* Isa. 53:10

The **T**hots:

1. **It is not the Pleasure of the Lord…**
2. To **P**unish **S**inners that they should **D**ie – Eze. 18:23a

*Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD.*

1. To **P**enalise and **S**end them to their **D**eath. Eze. 18:32a

 *For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD.*

1. To **P**ursue them to their **D**oom. Eze. 33:11

*Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked;*

1. Or for His **P**eople to **P**eriodically offer **S**acrifices to atone for their **S**inful **D**eeds. Heb. 10:6

 *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast had no pleasure.*

* Thus the Lord’s **P**ersistent **S**olicitation to **S**inners: *why will ye* ***D****ie, O house of Israel?* Eze. 18:31b

 *But that the wicked turn from his way and live:*

 *Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?* Eze. 33:11b

*Wherefore turn yourselves, and live.* Eze. 18:32

1. **Yet It was the Pleasure of the Lord –**

[because] *in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast had no pleasure.* Heb. 10:6

1. To **P**repare a **B**ody for His Son to come down to earth Heb. 10:5

*Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not,*

*but a body hast Thou prepared Me*

1. To fulfil **P**rophecy that He **B**e **B**orn as a **B**abe in **B**ethlehem Matt. 2:1

*Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king,*

*Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,
Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.* Matt. 1:22-23

1. Later God Himself **P**ublicly at His **B**aptism **A**nnounced this to **A**ll from Heaven **A**bove: Matt. 3:17

*And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is My* ***B****eloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

1. Finally, *it* ***P****leased the LORD to* ***B****ruise Him* that He might **B**e the **S**ubstitute for the **Si**nner. Isa. 53:10

*He hath* ***P****ut Him to grief: when Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed,*

*He shall* ***P****rolong His days, and the* ***P****leasure of the LORD shall* ***P****rosper in His hand.*

1. **Now It is our Privilege to Please the Lord.**
2. As was the **S**on’s Priority to **P**lease the Father Always. John 8:29

*He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him*

1. As should the **S**oldier’s Duty to Please His **C**ommander: II Tim. 2:4b

*He may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

1. As is required of the **S**inner who **C**omes to Him: Heb. 11:6

*Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is,*

*and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.*

1. As needed of **S**aints to please God in their **C**onduct. I Thes. 4:1

*We beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us*

*how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.*

1. Let us therefore this day **S**eek to **C**ommemorate Him as He **C**ommanded us: I Cor. 11:26

*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.*

*Lord God of hosts if it be Thy good pleasure, Help us to trust and believe ’tis Thy way.*

*Like Him for whom we know Heav’n is begun, We would say earnestly, His will be done.*

*His will be done, His will be done, This is God’s way, His will ever be done.*

Jennie E. Hussey

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 774**

1. December begins the Christmas season – it is one season which we can be sure the Lord is not pleased – He has no pleasure in it!

On most occasions, and in most celebrations, the reason for the season is completely cast aside and in its place is a God-dishonouring festival that completely obliterates the true reason for the season. In its place, we see pagan festivities and worldly activities which have nothing to do with the true spirit of the joy that came with the announcement of the birth of Jesus, as recorded in Luke 2:10-14 **-**
*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

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Contrast this with a write-up from Wikipedia, as follows:

*Much of the world has been taught that the****holiday****marks the birth of the Christian saviour, Jesus Christ, but that's simply wrong. ... The two most notable****pagan****winter holidays were Germanic Yule and Roman Saturnalia. Christian missionaries gave these holidays a makeover and they are now known to us as****Christmas****.*

*You can read more about the pagan roots of “Christmas” in* [*https://wearyourvoicemag.com/entertainment-culture/christmas-pagan-roots-winter-holiday*](https://wearyourvoicemag.com/entertainment-culture/christmas-pagan-roots-winter-holiday)

Let us return to the true reason for the season. It is twofold:

Jesus was **born** to **die**! – that we might **live**!

God so loved us that He *spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all* (Rom. 8:32) *that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* (Jn. 3:16b). This is the good news that we need to publicise as did the angels on that first Christmas morn. Yet this news is sad in one way, because He was born to die for us that we might live.

Today, we live for Him by telling our friends this good news.

Are you ready for it? How are you preparing to proclaim the biblical unadulterated Christmas story in its true essence without any contamination from the mythical ideas brought in from the pagan world and secular superstitions associated with Santa Claus and his merry-making frolic and fun minus CHRIST in the CHRISTmas story?

Will you be pleasing the Lord, Self or the World? **REFLECT**.

1. Are you taken up with the decoration of Christmas trees, dressing up as Santa Claus, purchasing Christmas presents to be put on and under Christmas trees and inside stockings, singing of Christ-less Christmas carols, organizing Christmas parties, taking up with the merry making and forgetting and discarding the most important Person Who was proclaimed on that first Christmas? How are you preparing yourself and your family to celebrate Christmas? Is it Self-pleasing time or seizing the opportunity and occasion to please the Lord? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *It pleased the Lord to Bruise His Beloved Son that you might live. What would you do to please Him that He might live in and through you this Christmas?*