

dec 22

how does one really keep christmas. i know receiving gifts are the most important things for children, but do we want to remain children forever? "when i was a child, i spoke as a child, i understood as a child, i thought as a child; but when i became a man, i put away childish things." 1 cor 13:11

is it time for all of us to finally grow up and put away childish things. yes, and past time. for too long, many of us have dabbled in things of faith. this will all seem as wasted moments in the light of eternity. let us grow up in our faith that, "the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, he eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power". eph 1:17-19

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Keeping Christmas  
By Henry Van Dyke

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing...

to forget what you have done for other people, and

to remember what other people have done for you;  
to ignore what the world owes you, and to think  
what you owe the world;  
to put your rights in the background, and your  
duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a  
little more than your duty in the foreground;  
to see that men and women are just as real as you  
are, and try to look behind their faces to their  
hearts, hungry for joy;  
to own up to the fact that probably the only good  
reason for your existence is not what you are going to  
get out of life, but what you are going to give to  
life;  
to close your book of complaints against the  
management of the universe, and look around you for a  
place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness.

Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then  
you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing...

to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of  
little children;  
to remember the weakness and loneliness of people  
growing old;  
to stop asking how much your friends love you, and  
ask yourself whether you love them enough;  
to bear in mind the things that other people have  
to bear in their hearts;  
to try to understand what those who live in the  
same home with you really want, without waiting for  
them to tell you;  
to trim your lamp so that it will give more light

and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;

to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open-

Are you willing to do these things, even for a day?  
Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing..

to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world-

stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death-

and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you can keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.

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no, we are never alone. our goal is to live for His glory or to die for His glory. we know that whether we live or die, we are His. we are bride to the soon coming King. they often say that anticipation is the greatest part. i do not think that will hold true in this instance. it can be enough to keep us going, but nothing can compare to what awaits us. "whom having not seen you love. though now you do not see Him, yet

believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory". 1 peter 1:8

i beg you all, don't leave at the "preview of coming attractions". wait for the whole show!

linda