

He Became Poor

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My favorite time of the year has always been winter. I particularly enjoy the cool weather and the beautiful sights of snow and cold winter nights. Now, I understand that this may seem abnormal because it would appear that the majority of people enjoy the summer time. However, this is just my subjective opinion. As the saying goes, 'if we were all the same the world would be a boring place'. But the reason why I love winter the most is because of Christmas. The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity; hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory- because the Father's will, Jesus Christ became poor and was born in a humble stable for the chief reason that thirty years later, He might hang on a horrifying cross. This is the most wonderful message the world has ever heard, or should I say will ever hear!

As I write this article there are 126 days until Christmas. As we get closer, folks will get into the "Christmas spirit". We talk about the Christmas spirit and I am afraid many have no clue concerning the meaning of this historical account. It ought to remind us of the temper and humility of Him, who for our sake became very poor at the first Christmas. This is why we are talking about Christmas in the end of August, because the mark of every Christian should be the "Christmas spirit" all year around. So many professing Christians may know a lot about theology and attend Church every Sunday and may have developed the spirit of the Levite and the priest in Jesus' parable of the *Good Samaritan* (Luke 10:0-37). But, there is more. The Spirit of Christmas is about more than having a cute little middle-class home, making nice middle-class friends, bringing up their children in a nice, little middle-class community and going about life all by our little ourselves.

The Christmas spirit is living life like our Master, living with eternity matters at view. The Great Awakening preacher Jonathon Edwards said it best, "*Lord, stamp eternity on our eyeballs.*" The Christmas spirit is living like Christ. It was Jesus Christ who made Himself poor, spending and being spent for the chief desire to enrich fellow humans, giving His time, troubles, care and concern to do good to others. For those who claim to belong to the Lord Jesus, we must remember that there will be a necessary evidence of the new birth. If we are going to be the salt and light in enemy occupied territory and in a secular world with radical leftist denying the authority of Christ and the Bible, and destroying our religious liberty, then we must desire to spiritually awaken within us the Christmas spirit. That will need to be cultivated not by our own good morals and self-righteousness but by killing sin, depending upon the Holy spirit, denying

ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age (Titus 2:12).

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).