



**MONDAY, December 14, 2009:**

Matthew 16:16 "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

When Peter made this statement he was responding to a question that Jesus had put before them: "Who do you think I am?"

During the Christmas season (and throughout all of life) remember that getting the answer to this question correct is the real issue.

Peter gives us the right answer. Agree with him! Stay focused on this singular truth – Jesus, the Son of the living God. With all the issues swirling around the Christmas season and society in general, this is the pivotal issue. Believe this and you are safe, fail to come to peace with this great truth and all other issues, desires, goals and possibilities fade.

Bottom line, Jesus is the central issue of your life.

**SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:9-10**

*"There is a direct correlation between not knowing Jesus well and not asking much from him."* \_John Piper, Desiring God, pg.139.

**TUESDAY, December 15, 2009:**

I Timothy 1:15 "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..."

Who and what can you believe anymore? Christmas is a reminder that Jesus came. He came as God in human flesh to "save sinners." This is a faithful saying. It is something that you can depend on and base your life on.

In the midst of all the spin-doctors, hype and ever-changing public opinion there is a central figure, a central hope, a light of truth and sanity – Jesus came! And the reason? To save sinners. Believe that, embrace that, build your life on that...and find peace.

**SCRIPTURE: Titus 3:4-6**

*"A person is not saved by faith; rather, they are saved by grace through faith. Thus faith becomes the channel through which the saving grace of God flows."* \_Billy Graham, The Evangelist, Lewis A. Drummond, page 45

**WEDNESDAY, December 16, 2009:**

Matthew 15:29 "Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there."

Ever felt like someone was dodging you? Have you ever gone out of your way to keep from meeting someone? Of course you have; we all have. Even Jesus did. In Jesus' humanity there was a limit to what he could do. He could only touch so many people for so long and then there had to be a break.

There will be a lot of you reading this today that simply need to go somewhere and sit down, stop, rest, hide, find a little peace and quiet...you get the picture.

Ironically, Christmas is one of those times of the year that we are most prone to forget this. The joy of Christmas is lost in the exhaust fumes of our racing engines.

Let me remind you that sometimes the best thing you can do for you and everyone else that is counting on you is to do nothing.

I challenge you to carve out a "do-nothing" moment today. Long term, it will be good for you and those you love; even if they don't understand at the time.

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46:10**

**THURSDAY, December 17, 2009:**

Deuteronomy 22:1 "*You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep going astray, and hide yourself from them; you shall certainly bring them back to your brother.*"

It's amazing to me how interested God is in how we live our lives. He cares about the smallest details. How we live our lives matter, it matters to Him and it matters to those around us.

Today's verse reminds us that we are called to get involved. We must not let things fall apart around us and not do something constructive about it. It is no compliment to be called a problem spotter, but the world loves problem solvers. Matter of fact, if you really want to bring honor to God and make a difference, make it a daily habit to solve problems that you did not create!

Here is the irony of following this kind of reasoning: in the long- run it pays off. The "extra-miler" will always come out ahead.

In 1869 H. J. Heinz coined a phrase that describes what I'm writing about: "*To do the common thing uncommonly well.*"

No wonder Heinz products are still market leaders; and so will you, if you do life God's way.

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:40-41**

*"There should be a Statue of Responsibility to stand beside the Statue of Liberty."* \_John Maxwell