

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Goodwill

"Your smile is a messenger of your goodwill." – Dale Carnegie

"Justice and goodwill will outlast passion." – James A. Garfield

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas." – Calvin Coolidge

"In war: resolution. In defeat: defiance. In victory: magnanimity. In peace: goodwill." – Winston Churchill

"Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men, and Batteries not Included." – unknown

Once again we come to the time of year when people speak of "peace on earth and goodwill toward men." Webster defines goodwill as, "a kindly feeling of approval and support; benevolent interest or concern, cheerful consent."

We pause and have that special day of Thanksgiving, followed by a shopping frenzy that brings out some of the ugliest feelings that no one wants to see. This year there was a shattered hip, a mall shooting, a stabbing, and a brawl. Even a baby got hit with a shoe.

According to U.S. News, Black Friday attracts more people than Disneyland, and more people die shopping than in shark attacks. People speak of goodwill, but sure have a hard time showing it.

True Christians certainly should not act like animals. Actually, that is probably not fair since many an animal acts better than human beings.

The hope and prayer is that people get over these sentiments of greed and covetousness. It is pretty bad when two grown men fight over a \$5 Barbie Doll. But as long as the devil wreaks havoc in this world, we likely will continue to hear of these awful stories.

One of the great challenges that Peter wrote says, "Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless" (2 Pet. 3:14). "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14).

The world may act brutish and barbaric, even while professing "peace on earth and goodwill toward men," but true Christians will make sure that their actions match their words. No one is impressed with a hypocrite.

If you bear the name of Jesus, which a Christian does, then talk and act in such a way that you glorify God. Let other people see Christ living within you. Truly show that goodwill, not as a member of society, but as an ambassador for Christ. "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1).