The twinkling lights of emerald green
And brilliant blue and white
Are piercing darkness, all enshrouded
In the black of night.

The scarlet Christmas lights reveal
To us the price He paid
In giving all, His life in death,
The way to God was made.

The greens remind us of His love
In making life forever,
That we who trust Him may be sure
That He'll forsake us never.

The blues speak of eternity,
The never ending span,
The timeless age, unnumbered years,
According to His plan.

The hue most beautiful of all
Tells of His righteousness,
A robe of snowy, spotless white,
In faith ours to possess.

The tree's a sight, the window's bright
A star and tinkling bell,
The gifts are made, the carol's played,
Do not the story tell.

He came to die and not to live,
We worship not the Child,
But God incarnate, holy, great,
Not virgin, or infant mild.

We cannot worship stars above,
Nor mangers filled with hay,
Not e'en the cross made out of wood,
Raised to the sky that day.

But Christ alone, for He is God,
He's all we'll ever need.
Remember not His birth alone,
For in His Word we read:

“This do in memory of me,”
His death, for this He came.
His body broken, bleeding sore,
He hung in blinding shame.

The sun refused to shine at noon,
The darkness fell as night,
The temple veil was rent in twain,
God spurned this Prince of Light.

On Him was sin, all yours and mine,
A black and ugly guilt.
He died, “It's done,” He cried,
His precious blood was spilt.

It's crimson red, it's giving life,
We have in faith believed it,
For sinners we can now be free,
Because we have received it.

So, Christmas lights of red & green,
Of amber, blue, and white,
We look beyond the lovely scene,
To God this Christmas night.

mm1963

LET US CELEBRATE JESUS’ BIRTH AND REJOICE TOGETHER.
At Christmas we often experience great joy. “JOY” is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23).

Be cheerful. Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.

If you would know the greatest sum in addition, count your blessings.

Be a lamp in the chamber if you can’t be a star in the sky.

What happens around us is largely outside our control, but how we choose to react to it is inside our control.

To see God in everything makes life the greatest adventure there is.

True JOY depends upon a close intimacy with God.

It takes both rain and sunshine to make a rainbow.

The JOYful person is the one who can enjoy the scenery when they have to take a detour.

A thankful heart is not only one of the greatest virtues, but the parent of all other virtues.

THE GLORY OF LIFE IS TO LOVE, NOT TO BE LOVED; TO GIVE, NOT TO GET; TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SERVED.

A genuine Christian is Forgiven, Forgiving, and For Giving.
If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn’t it then follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

My husband was going on a diet, but when we pulled into a fast-food restaurant, he ordered a milkshake. I pointed out that a shake isn’t exactly the best snack for someone who wants to lose weight.

He agreed, but he didn’t change his order. The long line must have given him time to make the connection between his order and his waistline. As the woman handed him his shake, she said, “Sorry about the wait.”

Since the election is over, we will still remember much discussion about abortion.

Should there be an abortion in any of these four situations?

1. **There is a preacher and wife who are very, very poor.** They already have 14 children. Now she finds out she is pregnant with her 15th. They are living in tremendous poverty. Considering their poverty and the excessive world population, should she have an abortion?

2. **The father is sick with sniffles, the mother has TB.** They have four children. The first is blind, the second is dead. The third is deaf and the fourth has TB. The mother finds she is pregnant again. Given the extreme situation, should she have an abortion?

3. **A man abused a 13 year old girl** and she is now pregnant. If you were her parents, should she have an abortion?

4. **A teenage girl is pregnant.** She is not married. Her fiancé is not the father of the baby, and he is very upset. Should she have an abortion?

(Answers on page 5)
Why and to whom do we give our gifts? To each other. Christmas should be a time of gift giving and our priority should be gifts to Christ. Now we have the privilege of living for and giving to Him.

Just recently a sweet lady paid me a surprise visit for the purpose of giving me a huge and beautiful book. It was a collection of poems by many Christian writers including the one who compiled the entire book, John R. Rice, a true man of God in his teaching and writings. Here’s the story of a young boy showing his Christmas list to his dad taken from this new book of poems:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I had the nicest Christmas list,</th>
<th>And so I scanned my list again,</th>
<th>I'd made a Christmas birthday list,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The longest one in town</td>
<td>And said “Oh, that’s not true!”</td>
<td>And left the Saviour out!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Till Daddy looked at it and said</td>
<td>But Daddy said “His name’s not there,</td>
<td>But, oh, it didn’t take me long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“You’ll have to cut it down.”</td>
<td>That Friend who died for you.”</td>
<td>To change the list about.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I knew that what he said was true</td>
<td>And then I clearly understood,</td>
<td>And though I’ve had to drop some names</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond the faintest doubt,</td>
<td>&quot;Twas Jesus that he meant;</td>
<td>Of folks I like a lot,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>But was amazed to hear him say</td>
<td>For Him who should come first of all</td>
<td>My Lord must have the most—because</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“You’ve left your best Friend out.”</td>
<td>I hadn’t planned a cent!</td>
<td>His name is at the top.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIDDEN TREASURES

Last Month’s Questions: 1) Quote a verse of Scripture in Psalms which speaks of God’s punishment of wicked nations. 2) Also what historic occasion did our early American statesmen respond to the suggestion of Benjamin Franklin to pray for God’s guidance and blessing as a nation? ANSWERS: 1) Ps. 9:17; 2) The writing of the Constitution

Next Month’s Question: What famous American statesman gave the counsel and warning in the following words? “If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will prosper, but if we neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury our glory in profound obscurity.”

PUNS POKE FUN

Did you hear about the fellow who lost the left side of his body? He's alright now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>We cannot allow this year to end! That would be admitting that 2021!!!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What do you call a girl with one leg that's shorter than the other? Ilene.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I bet the person who created the door knocker won a Nobel prize.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back for seconds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did a theatrical performance on puns. It was a play on words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How was Rome split in two? With a pair of Caesars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you do with a dead chemist? You barium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do you throw a space party? You planet.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here’s a bonus for those who know how to spell:

John: I can’t stand it when people don’t know the difference between your and you’re. They write “your so good.”

Bill: I agree with you. There so stupid.

No God, no peace. Know God, know peace.

You can give without loving, but you can’t love without giving.

Fight truth decay, study your Bible daily.
Sometimes we enjoy joking about seniors, but here’s part of an article written by one of my favorite writers that I use during my devotions. In addition to my Bible, each day I read from “In Touch” by Charles Stanley, “Preparing Your Heart For Prayer” by David Jeremiah, “Words of Encouragement” by Charles R. Swindoll, “Open Windows” produced by Lifeway (where I used to work), “My Utmost For His Highest” by Oswald Chambers, our church Missions Directory, and “Today Counts” by Harold J. Sala.

Here is a short excerpt from Harold J. Sala.

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**FOR AND ABOUT SENIORS**

**WHAT ARE THE FIVE MAJOR ENEMIES OF THE ELDERLY?**

By Harold J. Sala

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Enemy #1: **Physical restrictions.** You just can’t do at age 80 what you did at age 60. The solution: Thank God for what you can do instead of feeling bad about what you can’t do.

Enemy #2: **Diminished capabilities.** At age 85, Caleb cried out, “Give me this mountain!” at the conquest of Canaan. But for most of us, taking the mountain at age 85 is the exception, not the rule. But diminished capabilities may be vastly overrated. Scores of individuals refuse to sink into their overstuffed chair before the TV set. Instead they get into shape physically, thus changing their entire outlook and personality.

Enemy #3: **Loneliness.** Some withdraw the bridges and live in isolation, but you don’t have to do that. Volunteer, use the phone, and join groups. But don’t sit at home alone. *(Harold S. wrote this before Covid)*

Enemy #4: **Insufficient finances.** The elderly are always victims when the economy changes and their life savings can be wiped out overnight. That’s where families must shoulder responsibilities of their care.

Enemy #5: **Depression**—often a combination of circumstances not to our choosing which some older folks can’t cope with.

A final thought: Keep those shoes repaired and polished. You may need them a lot longer than you think.

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**REMEMBER LAST MONTH’S ISSUE THAT DEALT WITH THE QUESTION OF WHY GOD DOESN’T ALWAYS STOP EVIL?**

“When something bad happens, we often blame God. We who are created beings cannot hold our Creator accountable and blame Him when tragedies and suffering come any more than we have the right to blame our mattress manufacturer when we fall out of bed and break our arm.” *(Harold J. Sala)*

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**ANSWERS TO FOUR ABORTIONS ON PAGE 3:** If you answered “yes” to any of the situations...

In the first case an abortion would have killed **John Wesley**, one of the great evangelists of the 18th century. In the second case, an abortion would have killed **Beethoven**. In the third case an abortion would have killed **Ethel Waters**, a great singer. In the fourth case an abortion would have killed **Jesus Christ**.
In the introduction to the November newsletter we listed four questions; one was about Thanksgiving. We asked our readers to list 12 things for which they were thankful while using the letters of the word THANKSGIVING. Here are the first three responses from our readers:

| C | Texting with adult kids to keep in touch |
| H | Hands to do service |
| R | Attitude of appreciation |
| I | Nights sleep |
| S | Kisses |
| T | Singing |
| M | God power |
| A | Invitations for hospitality |
| V | Visiting new grandson Toby |
| I | Inspiration from nature |
| S | Nursing career |
| T | God |

Note the first letter of each item when listed vertically spells Thanksgiving.

| Toby | Home |
| Autumn colors | Kitchen to cook in |
| Nice visits with family | Saturdays |
| Grandma:) | Ice cream |
| Very peaceful nights | Interesting conversations |
| Nature walks | Garments |

Marjorie R. Morrison (Mrs. C.E.)
703 Oakhurst
Kernersville, NC  27284