

Thursday, December 21

Scripture Reading: I Peter 1:3-9

Text for Today: I Peter 1:8-10 *Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

Christmas comes at just the right time of year. The days are getting shorter and colder, and my mood can be almost as gloomy as the weather. Christmas is the perfect antidote for the “winter blahs.” Glittering holiday lights brighten the night sky. The lovely sounds of Christmas carols fill the air and always lift my spirit. We have more opportunities to spend time with our family and friends. Most importantly, the focus of the season is on the birth of our Savior. Even though we have not seen him, we love him, believe in him and celebrate his birth with indescribable joy. That joyful feeling fills us with hope. We know that no matter what our circumstances, a better life will come to us through Jesus Christ. That sense of hope is what our faith is all about.

Christ has long been our source of hope. The three wise men followed a star to find the birthplace of their future leader, one they believed would lead them to a better world. The disciples followed their Messiah and trusted him to change their earthly world. They also longed to sit beside him in heaven. The Bible is filled with stories of people who needed God to improve their lives. Today we still search for hope. Our celebration of Christ’s birth draws us closer to God, fills us with hope for the future, and reminds us of his gift of salvation. We celebrate the birthday of our Lord, but we receive the gift, a gift more precious than gold. We receive the gift of the one whom God sent to be our source of hope and strength.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we need you. You give us strength and fill us with hope. For all this and more, we give you thanks. Amen.

Jan Dobbs