

IN EXCELSIS DEO

ADVENT 2024

Saturday, December 14

Read: Galatians 5:2-6– The Message

I suspect you would never intend this, but this is what happens. When you attempt to live by your own religious plans and projects, you are cut off from Christ, you fall out of grace. Meanwhile we expectantly wait for a satisfying relationship with the Spirit. For in Christ, neither our most conscientious religion nor disregard of religion amounts to anything. What matters is something far more interior: faith expressed in love.

By the Grace of God we have made it through another year (well almost, still a couple of weeks left.) We've made it not because of our own devices or selfish intentions, but because God has brought us through another contentious year.

Think about the last 4 years for a moment... there have been personal struggles, church struggles, struggles in our city, our state and definitely within our Nation. Remember the Covid days, the anxiety and the fear we had? Maybe that time wasn't all bad... people walking/riding bikes in the neighborhoods, kids playing in the yard on a rope swing, and parents sitting in the yard having a cold beverage, playing with the kids and finally meeting their neighbors in the community... wait a minute, maybe that was just our house?

Some things we had to let go of for a while, the 8-5 work days, morning and afternoon commutes, meeting as a community of faith, some of our religious and family traditions. To think how miserable we thought we were then?

Perhaps, during this time, perhaps we reconnected to some things that we were missing, perhaps we realized what it meant to miss some things we were so connected to. Were the examples of love more prevalent then, than the last couple of years?

During Advent, we should be mindful of God's grace and love for his children. Without grace, where would we be? Without love, who would we be? This Advent glorify God for the grace and love so freely given to us.

Bobby Rayburn