



APAC  
Alongside Pastors & Churches

# Merry Christmas!



November - December 2023



## CHRISTMAS RICHFLEXION

**John Donne in a sermon from 1626 preached:** The whole life of Christ was a continual passion; others die martyrs, but Christ was born a martyr. He found a Golgotha (where he was crucified) even in Bethlehem, where he was born; for, to his tenderness then, the straws were almost as sharp as the thorns after; and the manger as uneasy at first, as his cross at last. His birth and his death were but one continual act, and his Christmas Day and his Good Friday are but the evening and morning of one and the same day.

**Theologian J.I. Packer wrote:** The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity—hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory—because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross. It is the most wonderful message the world has ever heard or will hear.

**Pastor Dave last Sunday preached at Cornerstone Church of Los Banos that in Christ we find real love, true peace, sustaining hope and overflowing joy. All accomplished on the cross but begun in the manger.**

**I know it seems strange to say it, but the cross is the symbol of Christmas. The good news of great joy that was proclaimed by an angel of the Lord was that in the city of David a Savior was born. To save us would entail bearing our guilt in His own body on the cross. Theologian D.A. Carson captures this humbling and salvific truth with these words:** From the Bible’s point of view, God owes us justice. God owes us condemnation. But instead, what he gives us is his Son, to die on the cross and to take our sins in his own body on the cross. God doesn’t owe us that, but he gives us that.

**Celebrating Christmas is reflecting and rejoicing in Christ as Savior.**

Who is He in yonder stall at whose feet the shepherds fall?  
Who is He in deep distress fasting in the wilderness?

’Tis the Lord, O wondrous story! ’Tis the Lord, the King of glory!  
At His feet we humbly fall, crown Him, crown Him Lord of all!

Who is He the people bless for His words of gentleness?  
Who is He to whom they bring all the sick and sorrowing?

’Tis the Lord, O wondrous story! ’Tis the Lord, the King of glory!  
At His feet we humbly fall, crown Him, crown Him Lord of all!

Who is He that stands and weeps at the grave where Lazarus sleeps?  
Who is He the gathering throng greet with loud triumphant song?

'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story! 'Tis the Lord, the King of glory!  
At His feet we humbly fall, crown Him, crown Him Lord of all!

Lo! at midnight, who is He prays in dark Gethsemane?  
Who is He on yonder tree dies in grief and agony?

'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story! 'Tis the Lord, the King of glory!  
At His feet we humbly fall, crown Him, crown Him Lord of all!

Who is He that from the grave comes to heal and help and save?  
Who is He that from His throne rules through all the world alone?

'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story! 'Tis the Lord, the King of glory!  
At His feet we humbly fall, crown Him, crown Him Lord of all!

**(Who Is He in Yonder Stall - Benjamin Hanby)**

**Indeed. At His feet we humbly fall, and crown Him Lord of all! Merry Christmas.**



**Cornerstone Church of Los Banos sends you Christmas greetings and thanks for  
APAC's help during this last year.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

GIFTS CAN BE MADE DIRECTLY TO:  
APAC P.O. BOX 461 TULARE, CA 93275  
OR ONLINE @APACMINISTRY.ORG

Rich Jones  
rich@apacministry.org  
(559) 556-8766

Dave Barr  
dave@apacministry.org  
(559)936-3558

Christy Lawler  
info@apacministry.org  
(559) 741-6837

