



BELIEVER'S BROADCASTING CORPORATION

220 North 6th Street, Quincy, IL. 62301

KJIR 91.7 "The Cross" Radio 217-221-9410

www.kjir.org

Not-for-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4
Quincy, IL
62301

Happy New Year 2016

Beauty Centers Around Christ

All beauty centers around Jesus Christ. That is why, apart from the commercialism, Christmas is such a beautiful thing. And that is why Easter is so beautiful. To me, Easter is more beautiful than Christmas because Easter celebrates a triumph, and Christmas celebrates the coming of Someone who hadn't yet fought. He had been born to fight, but He hadn't fought. But when Easter comes, we sing, "the three sad days are quickly sped; He rises glorious from the dead." And there's beauty there, though not the beauty of color, outline or physical proportion. You can worship Him in a stable; you can worship Him in a coal mine; you can worship Him in a factory. It's not the external beauty that is beautiful but the internal beauty. Heaven is beautiful because it is the expression of that which is the perfection of beauty. And while that is true of heaven, I must also say that hell is the place of

unrelieved, monstrous ugliness, because there is no perfection; there is only monstrous moral deformity. There is nothing beautiful in hell. And in heaven, of course, there is supreme beauty. Earth lies halfway between. Earth knows ugliness and beauty; it's halfway between heaven and hell. And the inhabitants of earth must decide whether they are to seek the beauty of heaven or the monstrous, unrelieved ugliness of hell. People worry about whether there is fire in hell or not. I have no reason not to believe it; what the Bible says I take as the truth. I would not hesitate to refer to the fires of hell, for the Scripture talks about the "lake of fire" (Revelation 20: 14-15). But if there were no fire in hell, if hell were a habitable country, it still would be the ugliest country in the universe, the most shockingly deformed place that is known in the creation because there is none of the perfection of beauty. Only God is absolutely perfect.

Nothing Bad Is Beautiful

It is not possible for anything bad to be beautiful. The Scripture says that we're to "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 29:2). It is possible for an unholy thing to be pretty or attractive, even charming. But it is not possible for it to be beautiful. Only that which is holy can be beautiful ultimately. "Worship the Lord," says the Scripture, "in the beauty of holiness." That's no casual remark, no casual relation of word to word – the beauty of holiness and the perfection of beauty, and the fact that only God is perfect. They all fit in together beautifully and drop into place, for God is beautiful beyond all description. "How beautiful the sight of God must be," says the hymn. And how unutterably ugly the sight of hell must be. If you could think of a prison, if you could think of a place

Where all hope and mercy had fled, then you would be thinking of hell. If you could think of a place where all moral wisdom was absent, all holiness gone and all goodness absent, where there was no justice, mercy, love, kindness, grace, tenderness or charity, but only multiplied monstrous fullness of unholiness, moral folly, hate, cruelty and injustice – then you would think of hell. This is why God calls us to Himself.

When are we going to raise up a crop of preachers who will begin to preach the perfection of God and tell the people what they ought to hear – that Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary and suffered under Pontius Pilate to die and rise again? He rose that He might save us from the everlasting monstrosities, the uglinesses that are far from God, that are not God. He will bring us to the beauty that is God. He came to call us away from all evil, away from the deformity and eternal ugliness which is hell, and toward holiness, perfection and eternal beauty.

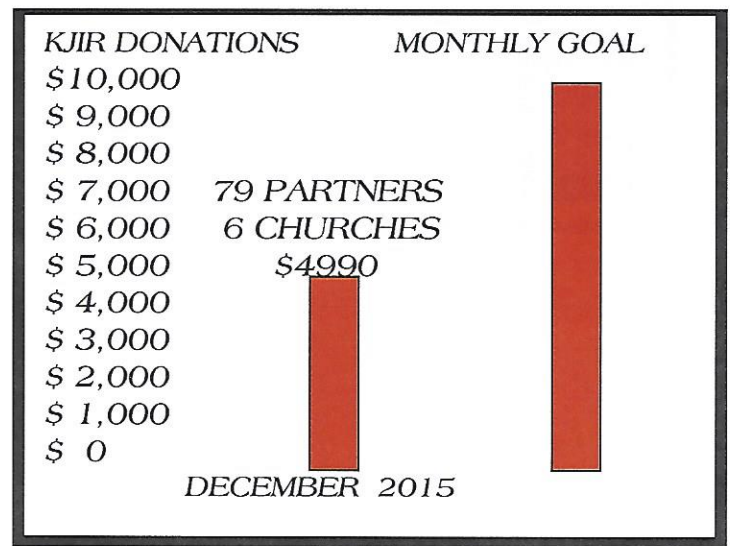
Jesus Christ is God come to us, for “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself” (2 Corinthians 5:29). Oh, how beautiful is the thought that God came to us in that lowly manger bed! How beautiful that He came to us and walked among us! He came with our shape and form, bearing on Himself our humanity, that He might cleanse, purify, purge, remake and restore us, in order to take us back with Him again to that place which is the perfection of beauty.

I don’t know where heaven is. I read that the people in the space program shot a gold-plated arrow sixty-some thousand miles into the air, and some are wondering if it might not be reaching heaven at last. I have to smile at that, because God does not dwell in space; space is nothing to God. The great infinite heart of God gathers up into Himself all space.

Our space program is like a baby playing with a rubber ball in Wrigley Field. He can’t do anything but bat it around and crawl after it. If he bats it away two feet, he squeals with delight as if he hit a home run. But way out there, 400 feet long, stretches the field. It takes a strong man to knock a ball over the fence.

When man sends up his little arrow, and it reaches the moon and goes into orbit round it, he boasts about it for years to come. Go on, little boy, play with your rubber ball. But the great God who carries the universe in His heart smiles. He is not impressed. He is calling mankind to Himself, to His holiness, beauty, love, mercy and goodness. He has come to reconcile us and call us back.

A.W. Tozer



Redeeming the time – Ephesians 5:16

Two little words are found in the Greek version here – *ton kairon*. They are translated in the revised version, “Buying up for yourselves the opportunity.” The two words *ton kairon* mean, literally, the opportunity.

They do not refer to time in general, but to a special point in time, a juncture, a crisis. They refer to a moment full of possibilities quickly passing by, which we must seize and make the best of before it has passed away.

It is intimated that there are not many such moments of opportunity, because the days are evil. These moments are like flowers, which appear here and there in the barren desert: pluck them while you can. Or they are like a business opportunity, which comes once in a lifetime; buy it up while you have the chance. Be spiritually alert; *be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is* (v.16).

Walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise (v. 15), buying up for yourselves the opportunity.

Sometimes it is a moment of time to be saved; sometimes a soul to be led to Christ; sometimes it is an occasion for love; sometimes for patience; sometimes for victory over temptation and sin. Let us redeem it.

A.W. TOZER

**KJIR Radio Is A
Listener Supported
Christian Radio Station**