

# ***Bible Study***

## ***Gods Word in Focus***



**Advent**

**Scripture & Bible Quiz**

## **An Advent Examination**

**Edward Hays, A Pilgrim's Almanac, p. 196**

**"Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.**

**"Daily we can make an Advent examination. Are there any feelings of discrimination toward race, sex, or religion? Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts? Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing or educational achievement? Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us, seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners? Are we reverent of others, their ideas and needs, and of creation? These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the deep, dark corners of our hearts.**

## **An Advent Reflection**

### **Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, TOR**

**"During Advent opportunities for works of charity abound calling out for Christians from every side: a sack of food for a needy family, money dropped in a Salvation Army kettle, a donation to an Indian school, a toy for 'Toys-for-Tots,' etc. Unfortunately, these works of charity so easily can assuage the Christian conscience, while doing nothing to being about a solution to the root causes of the problem.**

**"Works of justice, on he other hand, follow the road less traveled of Advent's hope to pursue solutions for difficult problems. Hope comes through works of justice rather than simply performing works of charity."**

## **Gift of Wonder**

**Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem., THE PRIEST, Oct. '87, p.26**

- "Each year, God asks us to shed one more coat of awareness, one more dream state and come alive to the vision of God's plan for each of us and the world-at-large.**
- "The older we get, the harder this is to do. As children we had a sense of wonder. Our eyes were wide open and drinking in the fascinating gifts we beheld...Our thirsty souls could not have enough of the wonders of creation.**
- "Then, somehow, we grew too old to dream. We tired of the abundance of the world, or at least grew weary of keeping up with the feast of life, and stepped away from the banquet of life.**
- "The natural gift of wonder God gave us as children was meant to be kept alive....Instead we let wonder go to sleep. We entered the typical dream state of most humans.**
- "Why else does Jesus tell us today, 'Stay awake!'...Advent says, 'Wake up and realize the gifts of love you have received.'**
- "...Psychology says, 'Let go.' Spirituality says, 'Wake up.' In both cases there is a withdrawal from the busyness of daily life (our dream state) and a waking up to the subconscious and spiritual depths of ourselves."**

# **Advent**

## **Relevant Verses**

- **Whom having not seen you love**  
1 Peter 1:8-13
- **Birth of Christ**  
Matthew 1:18-25
- **Gabriel Announces Christ's Birth**  
Luke 1:26-38
- **The Reign of Jesse's Offspring**  
Isaiah 11:1-10
- **The Coming Messiah**  
Micah 5:2