



‘Tis the Season

After the big snowfall, our UPS driver, who happens to be a WELS member, delivered a package to our front door. He asked, “How do you like Wisconsin now?” I told him this first snowfall for my family is fun, but I’m not looking forward to the next 3 months. To that he replied, “‘Tis the Season.”

It is the season for blizzards and icy roads, Christmas parties with too much good food and not enough time with family and friends. Best of all, “‘Tis the Season” to remember the great gift that we received when it was laid in the manger in Bethlehem – the Son of God made flesh and blood.

With all the snow piled up in the driveway, my little Torro snow-pup pushed it more than blew it. But it was much better than shoveling it all. One snowflake is beautiful in its crystalline way of sharp edges and perfect design of symmetry. But once they pile up? Ack! They are a backache waiting to happen.

When it comes to guilt for our sins, the Lord wants us to realize our sins and inspect our lives of selfishness and apathy toward Him will. But in no way, shape or form does the Lord want us to let them pile up as if we were stuck in a blizzard of sins! He wants our sins picked up, blown away shoveled off our chests! How in all the world will we ever be able to remove our tons of sins?

That is what Christmas is about! “‘Tis the Season” for guilt removal! “‘Tis the Season” for peace and joy with forgiveness. That great gift in the manger has your name on it. Jesus Christ is the Babe of Bethlehem, God’s gracious gift to us guilt filled sinners. God kept His promise and sent Jesus Christ to remove our sins and guilt. Every sin has been blown away and shoveled off our chest.

My Christian friends and family, when I finally finished removing the 15 inches of snow off the parsonage driveway, I breathed a lot easier and had a smile on my face. Thank God I had the strength and tools to accomplish it, eventually. When it comes to removing our blizzard of sins and guilt off our chests, we don’t have the strength let alone a simple sin shovel. All we can do is move them around on our chest. Joy to the World, the Lord is come! ‘Tis the Season to breathe easier and smile. Remember our sins have been removed by the babe of Bethlehem, without us even lifting one shovel! Let us receive our King!

NIV Isaiah 35:3 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; 4 say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."