

Daily Devotional, December 25, 2020

“Peace, Goodwill Toward Men”, (Luke 2:14, NKJV)

**“*Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*”** (Luke 2:14)

This was the angelic announcement regarding the entrance of the Savior into the world. It was written of the Christ, **“And this One shall be peace”** (Micah 5:5). It was the manifestation of the **“goodwill”** of God to offer salvation to the children of men. **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”** (John 3:16). No matter how trying the circumstances around you, Jesus is your hope, if you will consider Him. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow penned the following poem on Christmas Day in 1863, during the days of the Civil War. Some have set it to music and sung it as a ballad of praise. Johnny Cash utilized five of the seven verses, repeating the final one twice, as that final verse is the apex of the Christian hope.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet, the words repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men

I thought how as the day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along, unbroken song
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men

And in despair I bowed my head
"There is no peace on earth", I said
For hate is strong, that mocks the song
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, goodwill to men

Till ringin' singin', on its way
The world revolve from night to day
A voice, a chime - a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, goodwill to men