

*Keep Christ  
in Christmas  
Advent  
and Beyond  
Devotional*



*by Dana  
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# Day 2

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your love and mercy and that You shine in our hearts day by day. Use this time to your glory and help us to focus on You. In Your precious Name, Amen.

## Songs

Below are some YouTube links that you might enjoy. As links change all the time, I can't guarantee that they won't be broken in time.

[The First Noel by Celtic Women](#)

[Hark the Herald Angels Sing by The Benders](#)

[Come All Ye Faithful by Anne Murray](#)

## Scriptures and Reflections

*Psalm 119:1-24*

As I wait for His incarnation—the celebration thereof and His returning—what can I do?

Meditate on His Word. Hide it in my heart. Praise Him with upright heart. Ask for my eyes to be opened to see His wonder. No matter who speaks against me, keep His testimony.

This reminds me of my college days when I fell in love with God after many years of turning my back on Him.

There was nothing like the feeling of pure devotion and sweet adoration as we sang praise songs.



And Scripture memory was a huge part of my transformation. At one point I had over 100 verses memorized. I reviewed them systematically and so they became part of me. I was a different person from when I first started studying the Bible in September that fall to the following May.

*Isaiah 2:1-11*

What a glorious day this passage describes! The day that His house is established in Jerusalem and all nations flow to it. Our Saviour teaching us His ways and we will walk in His ways. Swords will be beat into plowshares and spears into fishing hooks. There will be true peace.

So in the meantime how are we walking? In His light? Or in Eastern “ways.”? Soothsayers, the idolatry of wealth (the love of money)? Are we walking in humility or haughtiness? Because ultimately the Lord will be exalted. Why not exalt Him now?

And that brings up the question: Are we in the last days? Maybe. Certainly we’re closer. To me, the most important event to watch for is the rebuilding of the Temple. However, there’s another theory—that the Last Days began in the time of the Apostles.

Regardless, only the Father knows the day or the hour. None of us knows what tomorrow brings or even the next hour. So how are you giving *now*? That’s what really counts!

*1 Thessalonians 2:13-20*

What on this Earth is your hope and glory? For Paul, it was his brethren, the Thessalonians. He poured His life out for them and other believers in Jesus.

Neal

For me, my hope and glory is reflected in my family members—my husband, my son, my nephew and his wife. They are the reason I work so hard, the reason I am able to stretch beyond my comfort zones.

What about you? Relationships are so important to God. So important that He died for people everywhere, Jew and Gentile, me and you. Paul thanked God for his brethren because they received the Word of God which the Thessalonians heard from Paul and others. They welcomed the Word of God not as from men but as the truth, which effectively works in those who believe.

Okay, so you know what that tells me? The Bible is not some useless fairy tale. It *works!*

Indeed the Word is precious! That's why it's so important to listen to and to read the Word during the Christmas season and beyond!

*Luke 20:19-26*

Taxes. It's why ultimately Augustus decreed a census would take place and so Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. The Pharisees sent spies to Jesus to try to trap Him. The Pharisees saw with worldly and earthly eyes. They thought Jesus was a rabble rouser, a zealot bent on revolution.

His answer to their trick question, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to a man who sets himself up as God (Caesar)? He asks to see a coin and asked whose inscription and image was on it?"

"Caesar," they answered.

"Render unto Caesar what is his and to God what is God's," Jesus says (I'm paraphrasing).

Taxes are certainly no less an unpleasant subject all these thousands of years later. Believe me, as a self-employed family we feel the pinch of paying our taxes.

- Yet it is the right thing to do as it's right to give generously where God would have us give. Because it's His anyway.

So pay your taxes and give to God



what is God's!

## Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that You care about relationships. Help us to hide Your Word deep in our hearts. Help us to honor You. In Your Name, Amen.

## Activity

Here are some ideas to help you live out God's Word this Christmas and beyond:

1) Read [this article](#) for some helpful hints on Scripture memory. You can also use [this system](#) by The Navigators. That's what I used with great success.

2) Who are your important relationships? How are you honoring them day by day? Are there relationships that you have neglected? Maybe this could be fixed with a simple phone call. Don't overcomplicate things!

3) Get excited about giving to a worthwhile charity this Christmas season. Do your homework. What organizations are good stewards of their donations? How do they treat their constituents? These are all important considerations.

4) Get involved in your local community and be wise about your taxes. Yes, we pay taxes however that doesn't mean we don't have the right to let her voice be heard when there is "taxing without representation." That's what the USA was built on!

5) Hire a knowledgeable tax accountant. The system is way too complicated now, especially for those who are self-employed.

*Paintings by Ann Neal.*



# *Devotional Thoughts and Responses*

**What is God saying to me?**

**What is my response?**

**How can I live it this Christmas season and into the New Year?**





## About AngelArts

The mission of AngelArts, A Creative Arts Agency and Publishing House, is to help homeschooling families and the marginalized reach new heights in their lives and beyond through inspirational arts so that they discover God's Callings and become closer to Him.

We do that through inspirational art products, events, and enrichment programs, homeschooling curriculum and resources, and branding, graphics and publishing art services and training.

Why the name AngelArts? Because excellence in art and literature is very important to AngelArts' founder Dana Susan Beasley, and inspirational art is her passion. The company's mission, as Dana envisions it, is to be a vehicle. A vehicle for God's glory, a vehicle for artists to grow in their careers, and a vehicle for her own gifts and talents to grow and help others in publishing, graphic arts, writing, and music.

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Thank you for taking the time to read this devotional!! Together we can reach new heights in our lives and beyond!

