



SPIRITUAL LIFE AND MESSAGE FOR DECEMBER 2018

G. Bernice Richardson, Secretary

"I wish you A Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year"

Opening Song: "What Child Is This"

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds, watch are keeping.

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Prayer: (As led by the Holy Spirit)

Scripture: Luke 1:26-33

Meditation: "The Christmas Story"

Beside our **Savior**, the child **Jesus**, the most amazing person in the **Christmas Story** is His mother, **Mary**. Mary's dream of being a beloved wife, homemaker and mother has just been secured by her betrothal to Joseph. In her heart, she delighted in the soon-to-be-realized hope of having her own home and family, a dream teenage girls share.

Mary's life was instantly changed by the visit from an Angel announcing she had been chosen to bring God's only Son into this world. **What a blessing! What an honor!** Yet, the highest honor in the sight of God brought her to a place of dishonor in the eyes of her community.

Many erroneously think that Mary was a saint with supernatural powers, but she was just a young girl. She fought the same mine-boggling fears and enemy attack we all do. Yet, she was willing to give up her reputation, her marriage, her family's

approval, her status in the community and her comfort, to become the agent God used to bring redemption to this world. She was willing to give up all to fulfill her purpose.

We are also carrying the life-saving message of a Savior come to earth to redeem mankind from the eternal torment of hell. Jesus, living inside each of us, wants us to be willing to be used as an agent for the purpose of bringing salvation to this world. **What a blessing! What an honor!** Like Mary, let us be willing to give up our comfort to fulfill our purpose.

Closing Song: "Joy To The World"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart, prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord,

Come, thou long expected Jesus. Born to set your people free. From our fears and sins release. Let us find our rest in thee. Lord, thank you for your precious gift of Jesus. We will remember that Jesus is the reason for the **"The Christmas Story."** Amen.

