

# WHEN IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE CHRISTMAS

By Dan Schaeffer

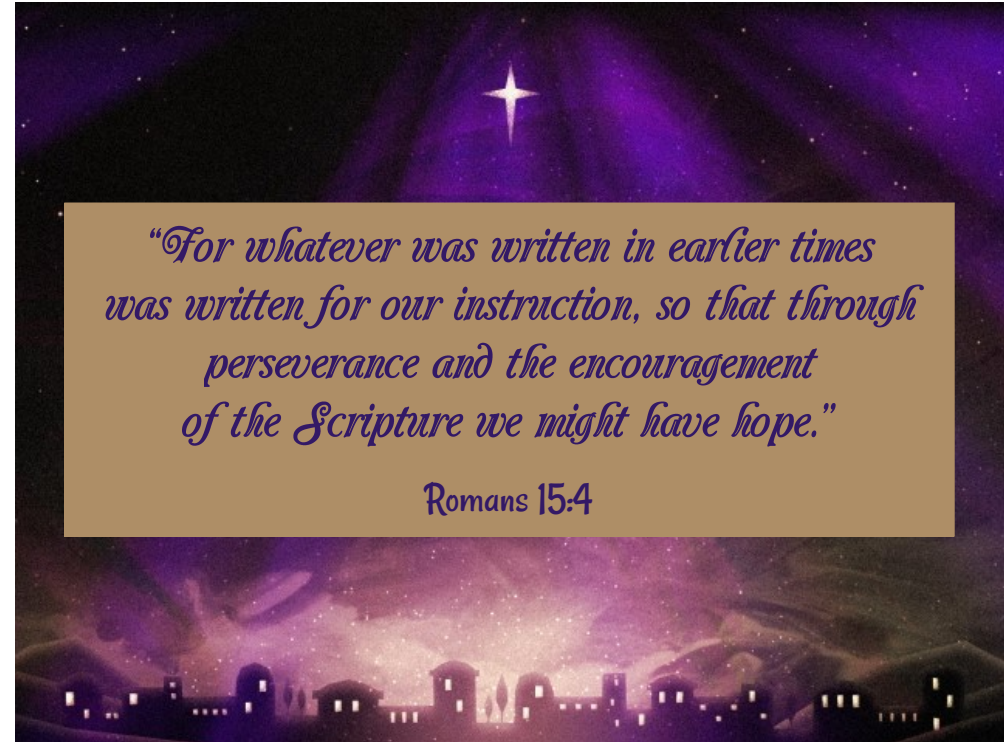
## Part 2a: *The Christmas "Unpeace"*

Ironically, in those times when it least feels like Christmas, it might be most like Christmas. Maybe hope, in the midst of strange, uncomfortable, and confusing circumstances, is the closest we can get to the true and original spirit of Christmas. Often, the lack of the internal peace we are desperately seeking nearly convinces us that God's love for us - us personally - has waned. How can God truly love us when He allows such pain and suffering to enter our lives? But it was because of this very pain and suffering that God came in the first place. In fact, it was into just such "unpeace" that our Lord arrived. As author Emmy Arnold writes, How could God hate us, when He gives us what He, past all measure, loves? I proclaim to you great joy that shall come to all peoples - peace on earth! The true Christmas experience is to feel that this Christmas peace is the greater power; that even now on earth it overcomes all unpeace. That this peace shall come to all - that is the expectation and faith of Christmas. The Christmas Star in the night sky, the shining of the Christmas light in the night - all this is the sign that light breaks into the darkness. Though we see about us the darkness of unrest, of family discord, of class struggle, of competitive jealousy and of national hatred, the light shall shine and drive it out. Wherever the Christmas Child is born in a heart, wherever Jesus begins His earthly life anew - that is where the life of God's love and of God's peace dawns again. When all the things that spell security and comfort are removed, we become keenly aware of how much we needed God to enter our world. We can't make heaven on earth, no matter how hard we try, no matter how much we decorate. Sin has affected and infected everything we touch. We needed to be rescued. We need a Savior.

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BELEN

*Pastor David Guerrero . Pastor Ernest Sanchez*

December 13, 2020



*"For whatever was written in earlier times  
was written for our instruction, so that through  
perseverance and the encouragement  
of the Scripture we might have hope."*

Romans 15:4

### **Welcome to Church!**

If you are a first time visitor, please fill out a "Connect Card" and visit our Connection Desk. We would love an opportunity to get to know you better and encourage you in your spiritual walk, as well as answer any questions! Contact Information for our Pastoral and Office Staff is provided on our website at [www.fbcbelen.net](http://www.fbcbelen.net), or you may call us at 864-8621.

## Activities for the Week

Sunday - December 13<sup>th</sup>

Spanish Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

Young Adults @ the Sanchez'  
home - 7:00 p.m.

Monday - December 14<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday - December 15<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday - December 16<sup>th</sup>

WMU - 5:00 p.m.

Deaf Fellowship - 5:30 p.m.

Children's Ministry

Rooted Youth

Adult Bible Study

6:00 p.m.

Thursday - December 17<sup>th</sup>

Finance Team Mtg. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday - December 18<sup>th</sup>

Saturday - December 19<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Parade - 5:30 p.m.

### Deacons of the Week:

LeRoy Vallejos

Jorge Acosta

Safety Team - December 20<sup>th</sup>:

Phil Gregory

Phil Smith

Jim Hurlburt

## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Collection dates:

December 6<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Please be in prayer:

- \* International Missions
- \* The children who will receive Operation Christmas Child boxes

"The *biggest battle*  
you will face in life  
is your daily appointment  
with God;  
**KEEP IT,**  
or every other battle will  
become bigger."

- RAVI ZACHARIAS -

**Baby Church:** The P - 5 class-  
room is open to all parents/  
grandparents with babies.

Sermon Notes and Children's  
Bulletins are available at the  
Connection Center Desk.

### Church Office Hours

Monday: 1-4:30 pm . Tuesday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm . Friday: Closed

## Christmas Drive Thru Light Show – Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> - Becker ST

- \* Free Christmas drive-thru light show with over 200,00 lights!
- \* Facebook Live show featuring NM's own Black Pearl Band
- \* Food Drive plus more we (the City of Belen) haven't mentioned

Everyone is invited to join Pastor David, Stephanie & their family in front of the Worship Center at 5:30 p.m. to wave at those driving by - letting the community know that FBC Belen is open & here for them. If you plan on attending, please call the Church Office so we can prepare enough coffee/hot chocolate. Thank You!

## Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

### Coming Up...In Celebration of the Christmas Holiday

The Church Office will be closed  
Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> through Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

## Give the Gift of Words...

**There is still time to send a personalized Christmas  
Message to all of our Church Family on our website!**

Every year we have exchanged Christmas cards and have contributed the funds saved by "mailing" them at our Lottie Moon Mailbox, to our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This year, things are a little harder. Not all can come and participate in our card exchange. However, all can email, text, mail in or call in to our Church Office, a personal Christmas message to your Church Family. Your message can be one line or a few paragraphs. We will post it on our website, and you can make a donation for the "postage" to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!

**Email:** [info@fbcbelen.net](mailto:info@fbcbelen.net) / **Text:** 859-0622 / **Call:** 864-8621

**Mailing Address:** 115 S 4th ST Belen, NM 87002