

Salem Family,

“O Holy Night” is my favorite Christmas song. The lyrics strike deep in my heart. The first stanza talks about our “dear Savior’s birth”, “a thrill of hope”, “a new and glorious morn”, and so much more. I am amazed when I slow down to ponder the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. These concepts bring me such joy and cause my heart to soar. I want to “fall on my knees” more and more as I consider Jesus coming to earth. I truly believe that these things should overwhelm us all. My hope is that this time of year would cause all of our hearts to soar.

I also realize this is not where a lot of us exist during this season. The circumstances of life are challenging and busy. They bring pain and hurt. We forget and are distracted. Hebrews 2:1 says “We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard so that we don’t drift away”. The reality is that our hearts don’t tend to drift toward Christ. Life is hard. We need to pay close attention to the supremacy of Jesus.

Pastor Seth has pointed us during this season of Advent toward hope and love (and will continue on through this sermon series). Our souls need and long for these things. In the midst of this year’s busyness and stress, we are praying for you as Elders. We pray that you would see Jesus more and more clearly, that He would point you toward hope and love, and that we would “let all within us praise His holy name”.

Have a blessed and wondrous Christmas.

Pete Youlden - Elder