

A Prosperous Christmas!

When God speaks it is so, simply because God said it! Words from God are pure; Words from God are life. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, he greeted her with a word from God,

"Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women."

God speaks to Mary. Gabriel was the messenger and God declares, "You are blessed because I say so!" This phrase "*among women*" in Greek literally means "*in woman*." Gabriel was declaring to Mary, "You are blessed by God and that blessing will be in you!" Luke 1:29-30 continues,

"She was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

Was Mary such a unique person, so holy, so pure, so above sin, that somehow, there was special favor from God for her, but not for anyone else? Through the centuries Mary has been reinvented into a bigger-than-life, a more-than-perfect deity in her-self! Of course, the Word of God does not substantiate any of these doctrines. Mary was a virgin, either 12 or 13 years of age; and as "normal" as any 13 year old of her time. The Word of God does say "all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) So also, Mary was caught in the grip of sin. But she found favor with God.

What causes the favor of God to come? Is there favor available for you today? Of course! The Word of God tells us "without faith it is impossible to please Him." Faith must be a part of the recipe for God's favor. Throughout the Word of God we find our Lord saying, "Obey my voice and I will be your God!" Obedience, something that simple, could that be part of God's recipe for favor? I think so! Daring to believe God and simply obey Him opens great doors of His favor to us! Look at Mary's response to Gabriel in her believing words, (Luke 1:38)

"Behold the maid-servant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to Your Word."

God's Word will cause you to prosper. To have a successful Christmas let your response to the Lord be also filled with faith and simple obedience and watch what happens!

Randy Bach
©2015