



SAFE HARBOR

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HAVE YOU RECEIVED?

We are coming to the end of another year. The season of Advent has started and soon Hannukah, Christmas and the new Year will be upon us. The media is doing its best to commercialize the season. Stores are filling up with shoppers looking for bargains, the latest fad toy and other things. The radio blares out the many versions of Rudolph the Red-Nosed reindeer, White Christmas and other songs of the season without reference to the Savior. The unanswered question that we need to reflect on is simple and straightforward, **Have you received?**

Have you received the quiet assurance of peace in these troubled times? Peace that can only be found in faith in God. It is a peace that is beyond our understanding. Trust that He who created the world is still in charge. Hope that mankind will see the folly of its idols of power and wealth and find the true source of peace and understanding. Love that says it is by giving of ourselves, we receive the blessing of life, even life eternal.

Have you received hope for a brighter tomorrow? That hope spoken about in Scripture is the hope that is realized every day and every hour. It is hope that is not found in wealth, possessions, political dominance or in success. It is hope that is centered in faith and caring. It can only be found in reaching out without reservation or gain to those who need that blessing that only hope can bring. It is hope that enables one to clearly see the reason for living. For it is when one loses hope, the fog of futility that cloud the way of life.

Have you received the love that is untarnished by greed, lust and sin? It is love of God with your heart, soul and mind that serves as the spark of living a life of love. It is love of neighbor that adds the fuel of love to the spark that produces light and warmth as we give of ourselves in sharing God's love with family, friends, acquaintances, those destitute and even those who hate us. It is love that overcomes the woes of our troubled world. It is love of ourselves that brings the eternal glow into our lives that radiates peace and hope to those that we touch.

Have you received and are you giving? The answer lies only within you by faith.

The Peaceable Kingdom

Edward Hicks was an American painter of a Quaker persuasion. He is most known for a series of about 62 paintings, titled The Peaceable Kingdom. The paintings were based on the eleventh chapter of Isaiah which begins, *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse...* At this time of the year, I would ask you to read this portion of Scripture and think about its relevance to our world today.

Notice that the Spirit of the Lord rests upon him. This is the presence of God which we find lacking

In the “so called” elites of our day. In righteousness he will judge the poor and not make them slaves under oppression of the hidden chains of avarice and power. His strength will be in his belt of righteousness and his power will be faithfulness to the very laws of God.

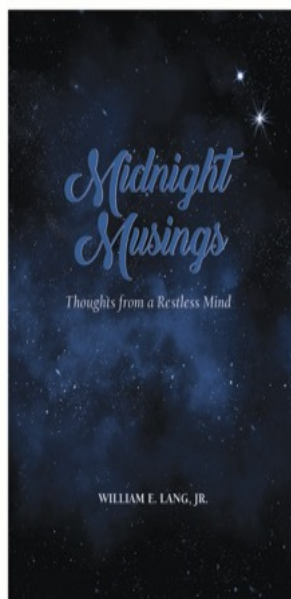
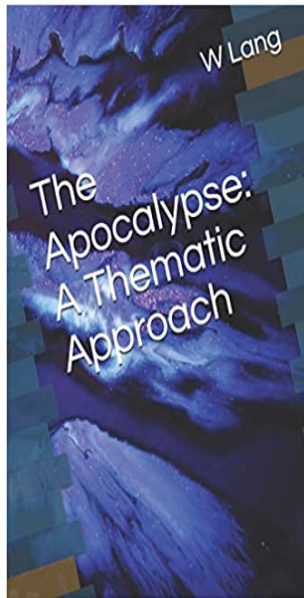
The result will be the wolf dwelling with the lamb and the calf lying down with the lion. They shall not hurt nor destroy and be full of the knowledge of God.

It makes one think of what our world might become if we only extend our faith in expectation of the best that God can give to us.

**BLESSINGS TO ALL AND MAY YOU HAVE A CHRISTMAS FULL OF
LOVE AND JOY.**

FROM Bill AND Diane.

You can follow Cove Fellowship at www.billlangservices.com , email to covefellowship@verizon.net or on Face Book at **CoveFellowshipMinistries**.



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