



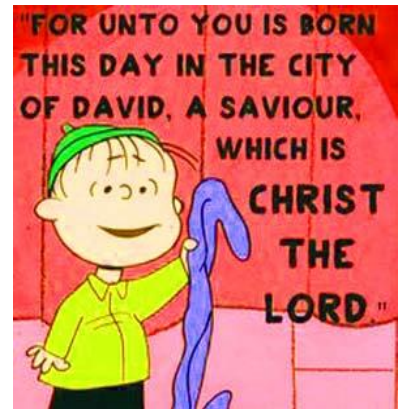
December 2017



## Tenacious Hope

There are times when our culture just seems to drift further and further from the values that made and kept our nation anchored in biblical truth. That often seems to be the majority of times these days. Keeping up with current events can be discouraging at best and produce despondency at worst. A notable exception is the span between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The "holiday season" still allows us as a culture to acknowledge our spiritual foundation. For example:

- However much Thanksgiving is promoted as a time that the Pilgrims thanked their Native American friends (which probably happened!), the truth of primarily thanking God has not been lost on most of us.
- "A Charlie Brown Christmas" by Charles M. Schulz was pressured by TV execs to leave out the reading of Luke 2:8-14 by Linus. They feared that religion on network television would not work. That is the highlight and point of the entire show. Fortunately, Charles Schulz insisted it remain and it has been one of the most beloved annual Christmas TV shows for over 50 years.
- Christmas music wafts through the air at malls and on the radio. Pittsburgh has two radio stations that have full time Christmas music starting the weekend before Thanksgiving. These are not Christian stations, but they play more than just "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." The spiritual message of the hymns and old favorites is still loud and clear.



Do not be discouraged. ***Our God has prevailed in changing lives forever no matter what indifferent or even hostile culture tries to ignore or stop it.*** In fact, He works best when seemingly "outnumbered" or "outgunned."

I pray and trust that this Christmas will create much more hope in you than anything else.

Serving the Christ child who was born a King,

*Don Nixon*

Don Nixon

P.S. Thank you for all of your support and prayers for Winning America as we celebrate the King of kings and look forward to what 2018 brings.