A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Christmas Present

***If your “priority train” is on the wrong track, every station you come to is the wrong station…***

*For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.”* ***(Phil. 3:18-19)***

***The priority battle in the human heart…***

* ***Secular track: you’re the boss; therefore ignore God, love things and use people*** – *“In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises…In all his thoughts there is no room for God.”* ***(Psalm 10:2, 4b)***
* ***God’s track: God’s the boss; therefore, love God and use things to serve people –*** *“’Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*  ***(Matt. 22:36-39)***

***When we’re on track with God’s priorities, there is…***

* ***Space with God –*** *“In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.”* ***(King David, Psalm 5:3)***

*On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.*

***(King David, Psalm 63:6)***

* ***Space from work –*** *“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work…”* ***(Exod. 20:8-10)***

*Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”* ***(Mark 6:31)***

* ***Space for relationships –*** *“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.”* ***(1 Peter 4:8-9)***
* ***Space for ministry –*** *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”* ***(1 Pet. 4:10)***

*Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.* ***(Psalm 90:12)***