

Christmas Conspiracy Worry Versus Worship

The cultural Christmas: worry, hurry and fatigue...

An anxious heart weighs a man down. (Prov. 12:25)

*Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.
(Eccl. 4:5-6)*

The first Christmas: worship, wonder and joy...

- **Mary worshiped** – “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...” (Luke 1:46-47)
- **The angels worshiped** – “Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.’” (Luke 2:13-14)
- **The shepherds worshiped** – “The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” (Luke 2:20)

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:19)

A Christmas revolution: releasing the worry and reclaiming the worship...

- **Through prayer** – “Do not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Phil. 4:6-7)
- **With Scripture** – “I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws.” (Psalm 119:7)
- **In song** – “Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him. Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to Him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.” (Psalm 33:1-3)
- **By faith** – “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matt. 6:33-34)
- **As sacrifice** – “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (Hebrews 13:15-16)

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David... (Luke 1:67-69)