



December 07, 2008

## Christmas With The Cranks

*(Why we can't afford to skip Christmas this year)*

(SERIES: Surviving Christmas: 01 of 05)  
by Dr. David Foster

**“God is not a God of confusion but of peace.”**

(1 Cor 14:33)

### What's Christmas to you?

A season of **hurry and worry**.

A season of **unmet expectations**.

A season of **firsts**.

A season of **forced spending**.

A season of **celebration and anticipation**.

### What would we be without Christmas?

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.” (Isaiah 9:6-7 NIV)

We would be without **the permanence of hope**.

“No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame,”  
(Psalm 25:3 NIV)

We would be without **the prince of peace**.

“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 NIV)

We would be without **a plan of salvation**.

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 NIV)

We would be without **the promise of love**.

“**Love never fails**. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. **And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.**”  
(1 Corinthians 13:8-13 NIV)

**Crisis + Promise + Presence + Power = PEACE**

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7 NIV)

