



December 14, 2008

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

(How generosity can save the world)
(SERIES: Surviving Christmas: 02 of 05)
by Dr. David Foster

"A heart at peace gives life to the body,
but envy rots the bones." (Proverbs 14:30)

The 3 Outlooks

The outlook based on **futility**.

The outlook based on **scarcity**.

The outlook based on **abundance**.

Abundance abides in the heart

Of everyone who **believes** God will always **be Himself**.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need." (Psalm 23:1 NLT)

Of everyone who **trusts** God's **methods**.

***God can always be trusted to do
the most loving, generous thing.***

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, **neither are your ways my ways**," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV)

Of everyone who is at peace with His **methods** and **timing**.

The 3 Peaces

First, there is the peace **with** God

"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, **we have peace with God** because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance." (Romans 5:1-3 NLT)

Second, there is the peace **of** God

"When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live **at peace with him**." (Proverbs 16:7 NIV)

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

Third, there is the peace **under** God

"Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you." (Job 22:21 NIV)

"For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed? **Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please** and exploit all your workers.'" (Isaiah 58:2-3 NIV)