



Merry Christmas Charlie Brown!

Take a few moments and think about some of your most fond memories of Christmas. Maybe you are thinking about the family gathering during the holidays. A time when your relatives would come together at Grandma's house to share a meal prepared with love. The delightful fragrances of home cooking still fresh in your nostrils. Or perhaps you are recalling some specific ritual or tradition that warms your heart even today as you think back on it. Things such as decorating, lighting the tree, or maybe even exchanging gifts.

I have many memories of Christmas as well. I remember the rich deep sounds of Christmas Bells and carols everywhere I went. I remember the smiles on peoples faces and the way they would show kindness to each other in the simplest of ways ~ a tip of the hat, holding a door open for a stranger, and a cheerful "Merry Christmas!" to everyone they would greet.

And I'd be lying if I didn't share that I remember the eager anticipation of a young boy hoping his behavior over the last year would qualify him to be listed as "nice" on Santa's checklist ~ being nice meant one would receive a gift.

One of my favorite things to do was to be sure I had met all the household criteria to be allowed to watch the Peanuts Christmas Special "Merry Christmas Charlie Brown" on some Wednesday night on CBS at 8:00 PM. (It was an annual event so I remember the details).

I still watch it today as an adult and while it reminds me of those cold winter nights snuggled under a blanket it also means something altogether different.

I think Linus said it best while quoting the bible:

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. ~ Luke Chapter 2:8-14

Admittedly then Christmas is still about receiving gifts... the greatest gift of all in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May you all enjoy this gift and remember the true reason for the season.

God Bless you all.