HANGING ON A TREE

I was looking at our Christmas tree the day after Christmas.  It just seems like a little bit of a let-down the day after.  The kids have come and gone.  Everyone is trying to get back into the routine of things again.  The day we have all been anxious to see arrive has come and we have sapped it for all it is worth so now we are dealing with the next day.  Well, in the midst of these thoughts I was looking at the Christmas tree.

There was this very pretty, white nativity ornament hanging in a particular area of the tree.  Kathie has a special place for each ornament.  This ornament was hung where I could see it more clearly than all the rest.  It was shaped like a stable with Mary and Joseph standing and the Christ child lying in the manger.  As I looked at the ornament I began to contemplate the fact that this ornament was hanging on our Christmas tree.  Were we belittling Christ by making Him an ornament on our tree?

Well if that is as far as he gets in our life then, yes, we have belittled and rejected Him.  It is not enough for Christ to just be a name on a bumper sticker or automobile tag.  He must be more than a picture on the wall or a pendant cross.  He can be in a nativity larger than your house but if he hasn’t washed you of your sins and moved into your heart then you have belittled Him and you do not have eternal life.

As I continued to look and dwell on this ornament it came to me that Jesus was destined from his birth to hang on a tree.  God knew even as Christ was laid in the manger for the very first time that he would ultimately die on the cross.  As he cried out the first sounds of life, heaven knew that he would someday cry out from the cross “It is finished.”  The nativity would have no meaning for us without the cross.  In our hearts, we must realize Christ’s relationship with the tree.

In the nativity, we picture a beautiful and glorious birth but in the crucifixion we see an awful, terrible death.  That death is the payment for our pardon.  It is the sacrifice for our sin.  It is the picture of the greatest love ever displayed; God’s love for us!  Do not leave such wonderful love hanging on a tree.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram