

## Avoid the Rush

By

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### Theme:

We all get caught up in the material side of Christmas. We get caught up in the rush of getting everything together in time for Christmas. Sometimes we put too much emphasis on the material side and forget the true meaning of Christmas. This play attempts to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas and offers a suggestion as to a way that we can offer a birthday present to our Lord and Savior on His birthday.

### Biblical Reference:

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

### Approximate Running Time:

10 minutes

### Cast of Characters:

**Beth:** Bill and Beth are a Christian couple who have only been married a couple of years. They don't have any kids. Their interaction with each other should reflect their young marriage. They should appear to be kidding with each other at times, serious with each other at other times, and romantic towards each other when appropriate. Their interaction with each other is important to the success of the play, so the two need to be able to act "loving" towards each other to play the parts.

**Bill:** See the above description for Beth.

### Scene:

Bill and Beth are sharing their thoughts after opening their presents on a Christmas morning.

Bill: Well, I guess that you could say that Christmas is finally here. I mean, Christmas morning is pretty much over now. We've opened all our presents and we've had breakfast. Now we can just sit back and relax. We've got nothing to do until we get ready for Christmas dinner.

Beth: Your right, and boy, I'll tell ya, I'm glad to say that I have once again survived the "holiday rush!"

Bill: What do you mean by the "holiday rush?" Don't you feel relaxed right now?

Beth: Well, now I feel relaxed, but the days and months leading up to this moment were certainly anything but relaxing. I mean, I've been on "rush mode" since the week before Thanksgiving.

Bill: What do you mean by "rush mode?"

Beth: I mean that I've been doing nothing but rushing to get ready for Christmas.

Bill: Are you talking about all of the cooking, cleaning, and dusting that you had to do?

Beth: Well, that's definitely a part of it, but there's a lot more to it than that.

Bill: So, the general "gettin' the house ready for company" sort of "rush" isn't what you're talking about?

Beth: No, not really.

Bill: So, what, are you, uh, thinking about all of the present wrapping and bow tying that you had to do for this morning?

Beth: Well, that is part of it, but you're missing the big picture.

Bill: Well, I could guess at what you're talking about all day. But it'd be much faster if you'd just fill me in.

Beth: Sure. As soon as you asked me what I meant by "holiday rush" you made me think about what I said. You were talking about some things that do make me feel rushed for the holidays, but the first idea that came to my mind was much more life threatening than house work.

Bill: Life threatening?

Beth: Yeah, life threatening.

Bill: [*Thinking.*] Life threatening. Oh, now I get it, you mean the holiday rush that takes place out on our treacherous snow covered streets. I know how you drive - and I'd have to agree with you.

Beth: No, I wasn't talking about our treacherous snow covered streets. And I don't appreciate your critique on my driving skills. For your information I was talking about Christmas shopping.

Bill: [Unbelief.] Christmas shopping?

Beth: Yes, Christmas shopping.

Bill: What are you kiddin' me? I never knew that Christmas shopping could be "life threatening!"

Beth: Well that just proves that you haven't done any Christmas shopping lately.

Bill: Oh, yes I have.

Beth: Okay, then prove it. How much shopping have you done for Christmas this year?

Bill: I've done plenty of Christmas shopping. In fact, I started to do my shopping last January.

Beth: Well, that's not really Christmas shopping. That's shopping for Christmas. Tell me how much Christmas shopping you've done in the last couple of weeks?

Bill: Well, actually, I haven't done any Christmas shopping during the last couple of weeks.

Beth: Why not?

Bill: Because I try to get all of my shopping done before Thanksgiving.

Beth: UH-HUH. That's what I thought. You see, you just proved my point. Well, I've done quite a bit of Christmas shopping during the last couple of weeks, and let me tell you that some people become downright dirty around Christmas time.

Bill: Downright dirty around Christmas time? Aren't people supposed to be cheery and friendly this time of year?

Beth: It may be that they're supposed to act cheery and friendly this time of year, but I know that some people are downright dirty.

Bill: I can't believe it. I just can't picture people acting downright dirty at Christmas-time. This is the season of giving and sharing and loving. I don't see how people can be downright dirty.

Beth: All right, I'll give you an example of what I mean. I'm at K-Mart when a blue light special first comes on. The first thing that I do is look around me to see if anyone's gonna' run me over on their way to the shelves. Sometimes I shout "LOOK OUT! HERE THEY COME!"

Bill: It sounds like you're just acting paranoid.

Beth: No way. As soon as that blue light goes on people move in on the shelves like the way that piranha move in on a large wounded mammal who just happened to fall into their pool of water. And that's not everything. You just wouldn't believe the traffic at this time of year. I've seen every traffic law known to man violated during the week before Christmas. "Public Highways" suddenly become "Private Driveways" for some people. And it takes an incredible amount of patience to find a parking spot at the mall. Sometimes I think you're better off letting someone drive your car around in circles in the parking lot while you shop. It could take longer than that just to find a spot to park.

Bill: Oh come on. It can't be that bad. Sometimes I think you exaggerate everything you say.

Beth: Okay, tough guy, are you gonna' tell me that you haven't had any problems shopping during this past week?

Bill: I don't think that I had any problems.

Beth: I can think of one thing that drives you nuts during the week before Christmas.

Bill: Oh yeah, what's that?

Beth: Shopping for our Christmas tree.

Bill: Oh man, don't get me started on that stupid Christmas tree. [*He gets started.*] I just don't get it. Every year we thoroughly check out every tree on every lot in town before we buy a tree. We look at it from every angle to see if it has any empty spots. We make sure that it's the right color, the right height, the right shape, the right price; we do everything but take the thing home and try it out in our living room. Then we load it up on the car to take it home and no matter how hard I try to tie the thing down right, it's gotta start to fall off by the time that we get around the block. And then, when we do get it home, the real fun begins. The thing sheds half of its needles on the way in the door. Then, when we finally get it set up in just the right place we see all the problems that it has. There's a huge hole here, it's always crooked, it bends when we put the angel on top and it always looks like it's about half the size that it was on the lot. I'm tellin' ya, it's just a big waste of time.

Beth: You know, if you think about it, we have a lot of silly Christmas traditions.

Bill: That's for sure.

Beth: Look at all that you go through to get that tree into our house. We go through all of that trouble and we still aren't satisfied with the way that it looks.

Bill: It could be because we're takin' a piece of nature and trying to put it in our house. I think that it just doesn't fit.

Beth: You're right. I think Christmas trees are pretty with all the lights and all, but it just doesn't look right being in the house.

Bill: And we haven't even talked about things like Santa Claus, TV specials, and scrooge movies...

Beth: Or all of those pointless football games, the stockings, the tinsel and the garland...oh, and the mistletoe.

Bill: Whoa, wait a minute, I like mistletoe!

Beth: I know you do. But it's just another example of how this world has gotten so far away from the true meaning of Christmas.

Bill: You're right. This is supposed to be the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Not a celebration of Santa Claus or Christmas trees.

Beth: I've seen people actually start a fight over the last board game on the shelf. This is supposed to be the season of giving.

Bill: After all, God loved us so much that He sent His son to be born here on earth.

Beth: [*Reflectively.*] As a human child, in a little town called Bethlehem. [*Pause.*] It's a story that almost everyone knows by heart.

Bill: But I doubt that many of them really believe that it's true.

Beth: To most people it's just a story, a fairy-tale, or something for kids to believe in...

Bill: Just like Santa Claus.

Beth: Well, you know what? [*Standing to her feet. Proudly.*] I refuse to be like the rest. This year, and every year hereafter, I am going to celebrate Christmas for what it really is, Christ's birthday. No more of this Christmas rush for me. I'm slowing down and getting back to making Christmas the season of love and giving.

Bill: That's a great idea. You know what? I think that we should also do something for Christ - you know, like giving Him a gift on His birthday.

Beth: What do you mean? I mean, how can we give a gift to Christ?

Bill: The Bible says that whatever we do to the least of men, we are actually doing to Christ.

Beth: So you think that if we do something good for the least of men that we'll actually be doing it for Christ?

Bill: That's what I'm thinkin'. I once read about a family who made a tradition out of giving gifts to a needy family in the community every Christmas. The gifts that they gave to that family were given in Jesus' honor. I think that it's about time that we make that tradition one of our own.

Beth: I'm sure that the City Mission will be ready and willing to give us a Christmas list.

Bill: And we can avoid the holiday rush! Isn't that what being a Christian is all about? Avoiding the rush of the world and doing things in God's time?

Beth: [*Reflectively.*] Boy that sure would be a change. [*They cuddle together.*] I think that it would be a change for the better.

Bill: You're something special, you know that? You're the second best gift that I've ever received.

Beth: Thanks.

Bill: [*Tentatively.*] You know. There is just one little bitty worldly tradition that I'd still like to continue - if it's all right with you.

Beth: What's that?

Bill: The mistletoe.

Beth: Oh, well, I guess so, but only if you're good.

Bill: THANKS! Is the mall open today?

Beth: I don't think so. Why?

Bill: I just thought that we could get some special Christmas shopping done and run it down to the city mission before Christmas dinner.

Beth: Oh, I'm sure that we can find some drug store or something open today, if we look hard enough.

Bill: Great! [*Getting to his feet.*] We've celebrated for ourselves, now, lets' go out and do something for Christ on His Birthday.

Beth: I'm right behind you.

[*They Exit.*]

- CURTAIN -



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