

# Beyond the Tinsel

## Questions for Application for the Week of December 9, 2013 Part 2 - Bring Joy - Psalm 72:5-7

1. The Psalmist prayed that people would “fear” the king (Ps. 72:5). “Fear” not as in “scared,” but as the humble response to majesty and accomplishment. When non-Christians view the church today, what kind of response do you think they have? Would those close to you have a healthy “fear” of you? Why or why not?

2. Of Christ’s kingdom there will be no end, but in advance of that the Psalmist prays that the king’s reign would extend “while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!” (Ps. 72:5). As you seek to be faithful over the long haul, what might you need to start doing now to make it happen? Are you anxious or confident about the years ahead and what should the proper response be?

3. The Psalmist desires that the king would be like a welcomed rain on mown grass (Ps. 72:6). Do you believe you are a welcomed presence in people’s lives? Are your family and coworkers eagerly awaiting your arrival at this year’s seasonal festivities? Reflecting on the “fruits of the spirit” in Galatians 5:22-23, which fruit (or fruits) should you focus on this Christmas season to be an encouragement to others?

4. As the king righteously executes justice, the righteous flourishes under his care (Ps. 72:7). What kind of influence do you have on others? Are those you have relationships with built up in Christ as they spend time with you? How could you encourage somebody to be more like Jesus this Christmas season?

5. Take out your calendar and review the weeks ahead. Will your schedule allow you to be a calming influence on others? What (if any) strained relationships will you encounter? How have you historically responded to these pressures and tensions? Make a list of your concerns and prayerfully consider how you can respond in a way that brings glory to God.