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*“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
*1 Corinthians 15:57*

**Special Christmas Season Message**

In the winter of 1863, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow left his Cambridge, Massachusetts home to care for Charles Appleton Longfellow, his oldest son and a member of the Union Army who suffered wounds while fighting during the Civil War in Virginia. As he nursed his son back to health, Longfellow took a pen in hand and wrote a Christmas hymn of gratitude for God’s providence in his life and hope for the days ahead.

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”  
By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth,  
The cannon thundered in the South,

And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"