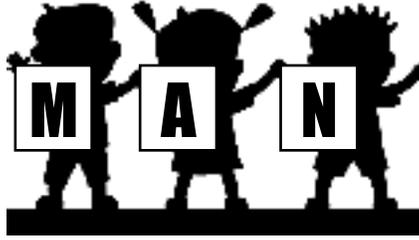
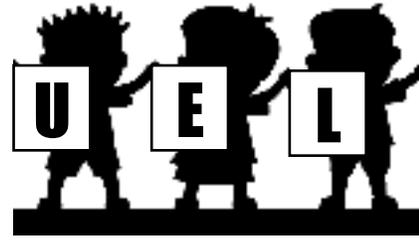


(1) **E**xpect a **M**iracle



(2) **M**ake **A**ll things **N**ew



(3) **U**nto **E**verlasting **L**ife

(1) Don't short-change God. Ahaz ignored the prophet and prepared for war instead of trusting that God would give him the victory. Let God work a miracle in your life this Christmas. Trust Him to give you what you need - even if it seems miraculous. Expect the miracles God wants to give you.

[EM in Hebrew also means WITH]

(2) St. Paul talks about how he is a 'slave' for Christ called to be an 'apostle.' St. Paul likes to remind us throughout Scripture that he was not a very nice guy before his conversion. In fact, he persecuted and wanted to kill Christians. But God's grace changed him from a bad guy into a great apostle.

In the Book of Revelation, Jesus says near the end, Behold, I make all things new (*Rev 21:5*). Let God's grace transform you this Christmas. Let Him make all things new for you. Dump old baggage from your life. Let God renew your heart, your life, your relationships. Whatever it may be.

[ANU in Hebrew means US]

(3) Bottom line ... why all this hoopla about Christmas? Did Jesus come to us, and die for us so that we could send Christmas cards?

Archbishop Fulton Sheen in the 1950s in his Christmas message said: *"The purpose of God's coming to man was not to make us nice people, but to make us new creatures."*

We need to focus on what lies ahead. Not just in a few days, or a few months, or a few years. But the ultimate destination God has mapped out for us. If we don't punch in the destination, how will we know where we're going.

We can get caught up in what's happening right now, and miss the whole reason for things. Jesus tells us not to work for food that perishes, but for food that leads us unto everlasting life (*John 6:27*). That the last part. We are made for eternal life with God.

So, keep your eyes on the prize, and make sure you know where you're going.

[EL in Hebrew means GOD]

[EMM+ANU+EL = WITH+US+GOD = God is with us.]