

I don't know if I saved that comic strip, and if by chance I did, I have no idea where I might have stored it. Probably it went to the black hole in my house where every time I have a bright idea about where to put something so that I'll remember where I put it ..... I never see it again.

The comic strip may be gone, but I have never forgotten it, and that simple profound statement embodies the wonder of Christmas. It is simply this - that God would come down to earth and become one of us so that we could become like him and be with him one day.

He came to be a light in the darkness of a fallen world. It all started with the baby Jesus being born in a manger here on earth. He brought light. He brought hope. He brought love. All for us.

~**That is the wonder of Christmas.**~

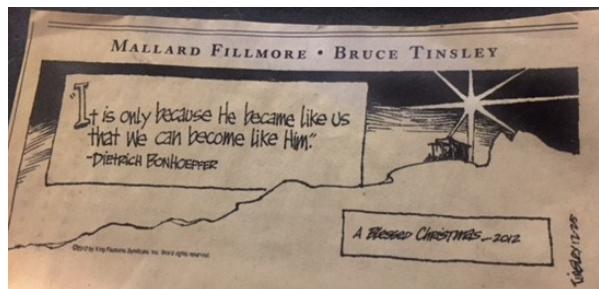
**Merry Christmas one and all.**

#### POSTSCRIPT

I was hit by an inspirational lightning bolt! I went up to my shed, looked through a certain box and found the comic strip.

It didn't originate from the comic strip series I thought it did, Mutts. I didn't get the quote right, but close (*It is only because he became like us that we can become like him* is the correct version). Nor did I attribute that quote to its author, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, one of the Christian greats because I didn't remember that he quoted it.

The comic strip is back on my refrigerator.



Chris Macy - [cjmacy@earthlink.net](mailto:cjmacy@earthlink.net)  
December 2017

Chris & Her Pen  December 2017

## The Wonder of Christmas

Is there anything to say about Christmas that hasn't already been said in a thousand different ways? What could I possibly come up with that would be fresh, different and original? I am sitting here staring at this blank page pondering this question and wishing that I would be hit with an inspirational lightning bolt.

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Fast forward a couple of weeks since I first wrote the paragraph above. Sometimes things have to stew in my brain for a while. Since I wrote it, I have shopped for Christmas cards and have seen a lot of phrases referring to the "wonder of Christmas". Often in the vast flow of verbiage the words and meaning of stories get lost - it's become so familiar. What is the "wonder of Christmas" I wondered?

And then I remembered a comic strip from one of my favorite comics, Mutts, published at Christmas time many years ago. Mutts is one of the few comic strips I read consistently in the SLO Tribune. It's about a dog and a cat who are neighbors and friends and their owners, from the animal's point of view.

The strip simply said,

***He came to earth to become like us so we could become like him.***

The simplicity and profoundness of that statement struck me then and still does today, although I had to see many references to "the wonder of Christmas" before I remembered it and connected the two. I cut the strip out of the newspaper and for many years had it on my refrigerator. One day, I cleaned everything off the fridge to start anew.

 *The Wonder of Christmas*

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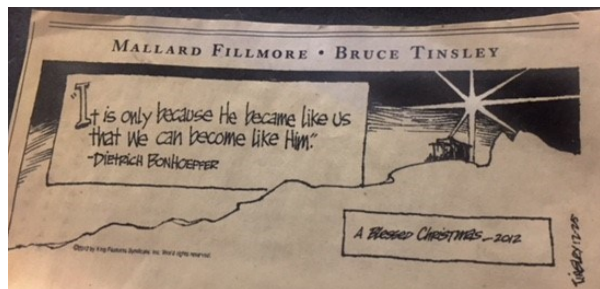
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