

Christmas Message

Opening Prospective – Gift giving, minor feast holidays

Christmas, Hanukkah, and Purim

Text: [Isa 9:6 KJV] 6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Introduction

Jesus is the Reason for the Season

Traditions of Christmas

The Spirit of Christmas

How did Christmas get so off track

Scripture References to the Coming of Christ

Jesus is the Reason for the Season

How can we celebrate the birth of Jesus and not direct our focus on Jesus?

It's easy, make the traditions more important than what the real focus should be.

Traditions of Christmas

Advent – Advent – four week celebration of hope, peace, joy, and love. Started on December 1st this year. Starts November 30th next year.

Christmas Meal - Roast turkey, ham, prime rib, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green bean casserole, candied sweet potatoes, roasted vegetables, gingerbread, sugar cookies, and pie

Christmas Cards – Originated in England. The first modern Christmas card was created in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole, who commissioned artist John Callcott Horsley to design it. The card featured a festive scene, a space for a personal message, and the greeting "A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year To You".

Christmas Carols – Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has really survived.

Christmas Tree – Probably came to America from Germany. The tree represents eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Giving Gifts - the modern association of Christmas with gift-giving significantly evolved during the Victorian era in the 19th century

The True Spirit of Christmas

How do we get into the true Christmas Spirit?

Worship Jesus in Spirit and in Truth

Follow the Advent Tradition

Don't let others ruin your focus

Make sure you focus on your relationship with Christ in your traditions

How did Advent and Christmas get so off track?

God is a Spirit and we must worship him in spirit and in truth.

How can a dead spirited person worship God

Christmas in the US has a huge focus on gift giving (\$900 per person)

Many Parties and big meals leave out worship of the Savior

Events overshadow the reason for the season: Black Friday

Scripture References about the Messiah

The Prophesied place for the Messiah's birth, Bethlehem.

[Mic 5:2 KJV] 2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, [though] thou be little among the thousands of Judah, [yet] out of thee shall he come forth unto me [that is] to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth [have been] from of old, from everlasting.

The Lord's Grace Brought him to Earth

[2Co 8:9 KJV] 9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

God with Us

[Isa 7:14 KJV] 14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

[Mat 1:23 KJV] 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Unto Us a Child is Born

[Isa 9:6 KJV] 6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Announcement to the Shepherds

[Luk 2:9-12 KJV] 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this [shall be] a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

What are you living for? What drives you and motivates you? What is the anthem of your life?