

Christmas Season Again!

Well, here we go again; the Christmas season has begun! A couple months before Christmas stores were already stocking their shelves with Christmas items. Then, before Thanksgiving, businesses were advertizing their "Black Friday" sales and telling people they could save early. Then comes the actual Black Friday sales event and, from news headlines, one must wonder if the Christmas spirit even exists anymore. A few news headlines read: SEASON'S BEATINGS: Shoppers punch, kick, scream; Baby hit with shoe...; One shot outside mall, brawls shut another...; BLACK FRIDAY SMACKDOWN: Men squabble over toy car...; And the chaos goes global...; Customers wear employee uniforms to sneak in to stores! And so it goes. People frantically shop for that perfect gift, try to save money on what they buy as they run from store to store. Many stores will play Christmas music but for some businesses, employees are not permitted to say "Merry Christmas" because to do so, that is not politically correct. The politically correct greeting is "Happy Holidays." Christmas - do people even know what Christmas is all about anymore?

Christmas is **NOT** about the getting and giving of gifts, office parties, etc.; it is strictly from a biblical perspective, Jesus Christ coming into this world to save sinners. Jesus, **THE** Messiah promised by God the Father! Throughout the Old Testament God promised Israel a redeemer Who would be born of a virgin; He would come to save His people from their sins {"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14}. In the New Testament God fulfilled that promise as Mary was conceived of by the Holy Ghost; her husband, Joseph, did not have a sexual relationship with Mary; it was all and only of the Holy Ghost {"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 1:18}. Because Jesus was born without a sin nature, He was in every way perfect and therefore the **ONLY** qualified person to die on the Cross of Calvary to pay our sin debt. That is why He left the glory of Heaven; to come in the form of man, to shed His innocent blood and die for us, sinful man. This is only part of the good news. The rest is that He did not stay in the grave but, three days later, He physically rose and is at this very moment in Heaven at the right hand of the Father. {"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" Hebrews 10:12}.

Christmas is the outgrowth of God's love for His creation; you and I. He loved {and still does} us so much that He sent His Son. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {John 3:16} An old-time preacher expanded on this verse with this: "For this is indeed the summary of that important message which I bring to the children of men, that God so loved the world, apostate and miserable as it was; yea, to such an amazing and unutterable degree did he love it that he gave even his only begotten Son from his embraces, that whoever believeth on him, whatever be the nation he belongs to, or whatever his guilt be, he may not perish under the sentence of Divine justice, but may have everlasting life and glory." When Jesus Christ died on Calvary, He paid your sin debt with His blood. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" {1 Peter 1:18-19}

My friend, the most precious gift that you could possibly receive this Christmas season is the gift of the forgiveness of sin and eternal life in Jesus Christ. What must you do to have this? Truly repent of your sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus, trust Him as your personal Saviour. You cannot do anything to earn this; it is all by faith alone. There is no special prayer to pray because it is **ALL** by faith alone, believing in your heart and trusting Him. If you do this, how do you know that you are forgiven and saved? Here is what the Bible says about this: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." ({1 John 5:11-13}

Trust Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour today and make this Christmas your best Christmas ever!