

Christ Jesus is the Reason for the Season

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The holiday season is upon us; Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. For many people, these are tough times, for one reason or another. Let us look through the eyes of a Christian going through the holiday season. For a Christian, Thanksgiving is a time to count your many blessings that have been bestowed upon you. We have the fine example of the pilgrims and their Thanksgiving celebration, giving thanks and praise to their Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. These godly folks were thankful for their many provisions, and all that God had done in their lives, giving Him the all the glory. This praise Christ so rightfully deserves. The secular crowd's Thanksgiving is almost the same, except for the fact that they are giving thanks to what 'me, myself, and I' have provided, not giving God the glory. But the Christian says, "OH come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms" (Psalm 95:1-2, NKJV).

Let us move along to Christmas. For a blood bought believer, what does Christmas really mean? The birth of our Savior. "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (Matthew 1:23). Jesus came to save lost sinners, the Jews first, and then the Gentiles. You might be asking yourself how. The answer is in the Scriptures. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:30-31). For a non-Christians, Christmas means Santa Claus, presents, credit card debt, and the disappointment of not getting that perfect gift. The only perfect gift you will ever receive comes right from God. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Friend, admit that you are a sinner in need of a Savior. Walk as a repentant sinner, and not with this sinful world. Seek Him. Search for Him and you will find Him, and this Scripture will ring true. "You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence" (Acts 2:28).

Now we come to New Year's. For a Christian, this is time to reflect on the past year and your walk with the Lord. It involves soul searching and asking questions like, 'God, what can I improve upon, that I might be more Christ-like? What can be removed, that my spiritual growth be not hindered?' There is always room for improvement. "I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, And my spirit makes diligent search" (Psalm 77:6). For the non-Christian, New Year's consists of parties, watching the ball drop, and just thinking of having made it through another year. I ask you, 'Have you ever considered your eternal state?' Consider this Scripture and make a decision for yourself. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Friend, choose Christ Jesus today and receive the best gift, and your holidays will be much different from past years. You will have Christ Jesus in your heart, which means you will have everything.