



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Morning Sermon by Ray Reynolds
December 3, 2017

The Christmas Season

Introduction: It is Christmas time! For some people this is an exciting time of the year. They love the wrapping paper, bows, boxes, presents, cookies, candies, and pies. Some people just can't wait to start trimming their trees and putting up Christmas lights in their house, in their windows, around their landscaping and they might even wrap their mailbox in lights or the family pet! Many people love to hear Christmas songs and carols in every store and on every radio station. They get excited when they see Rudolph, Frosty, and Santa Claus decorations. They filled their yard with inflatable decorations and put wreaths on their doors and even mistletoe, hoping for a kiss. It's a time for hot chocolate, fruitcake, gingerbread houses and eggnog by the fireplace. We break out the Christmas cards, the photo albums and the handmade ornaments passed down for generations. Who doesn't love Christmas!?

You might be surprised to know that there are some people this time of year that are more like the Grinch, Ebenezer Scrooge (A Christmas Carol), Old Man Marley (Home Alone) or Mr. Potter (It's A Wonderful Life). These people might remind you of the Cranks in the book "Skipping Christmas" by John Grisham. They made a movie based on that book called "Christmas with the Cranks." I'm not sure why some people hate Christmas, but I think it could be traced to about three different reasons: 1) they were trained from birth hate Christmas, 2) they were raised in poverty and watched every other child receive gifts, while they had very little, 3) their religion prevents them from keeping the Christmas holiday. There may be other reasons why, but I think those three basically summarize the issue at hand. For the past decade there's been a war on religious holidays, but especially on Christmas, by atheists. Because Christ's name is in the holiday. Therefore, for the next few weeks, I will be teaching spiritual lessons we can learn from Christmas. Every item related to Christmas will be connected to "The Gospel Story." Let's enjoy this season together....

Discussion:

- I. **The Christmas Tree** - What does it mean? What spiritual lessons can be learned?
- II. **The Christmas Lights** - What does it mean? What spiritual lessons can be learned?
- III. **The Christmas Nativity** - What does it mean? What spiritual lessons can be learned?
- IV. **The Christmas Child** - What does it mean? What spiritual lessons can be learned?
- V. **The Christmas Visitors** - What does it mean? What spiritual lessons can be learned?
- VI. **The Christmas Spirit** - What does it mean? What spiritual lessons can be learned?
- VII. **The Christmas Gifts** - What does it mean? What spiritual lessons can be learned?
- VIII. **The Christmas Carols** - What does it mean? What spiritual lessons can be learned?

Conclusion: Christmas may be over commercialized. Christmas may have a heightened secular appeal and may be corrupted by false concepts. Christmas may be in the wrong season, because we are almost certain that the so-called "Birthday of Jesus" may be way off. Christmas may be a sad and depressing holiday to some people. However, there is a fantastic old song that says, "Little is Much, When God Is In It." Far be it from me to hinder or discourage others who see Christ in Christmas or in anything else. If Christ is in it, at least He is being proclaimed (**Philippians 1:15-18**). We get a glimpse of God during this time of year! God bless you and merry Christmas! How can we share the gospel story during Christmas? Will you share spiritual lessons? Have you received the gift of salvation through Jesus?