



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“THE UGLINESS OF CHRISTMAS”

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We all think that Christmas is the most beautiful time of the year considering all the colorful Christmas lights, decorations, jolly parties, and gift-giving. It is the joy of many preachers to speak about the beauty of Christmas and the wonderful events that took place in Bethlehem. However, to have a proper understanding of the beauty of Christmas, we also need to know its true meaning and its ugliness as well.

1. What is the beauty and true meaning of Christmas?

It is important to know that the meaning of Christmas is sharing. The most precious gift to mankind is from our heavenly Father when He sent His Son to us wrapped in swaddling clothes. The heart of Christmas is that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). He is the light in the darkest place. He looks for sinners to enlighten their hearts and minds.

2. What is the ugliness of Christmas?

The dark and ugly side of Christmas is SIN. Because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, sin entered the world bringing with it pain, suffering, conflict, and death. Satan was hurled down on earth and he acted as the father of the world (2 Corinthians 4:4). He blinded our minds from the truth. Sin disturbs and also disrupts every human relationship whether between man and man, between man and creation, or man and God. However, if there were no sin, there would be no need for Christ to come and there would be no Christmas. Therefore, the reason for His coming is the ugliness of Christmas

3. What is sin and what is it like?

Sin is breaking God’s law (1 John 3:4).

- 3.1 SIN is defiling, a pollution to our soul. It makes the soul red with guilt and black with evil.
- 3.2 SIN is defiant. It makes a person uncaring.
- 3.3 SIN is ungratefulness. God gave us so much but we are not thankful for them. We complain and we are never satisfied.
- 3.4 SIN is incurable. It is like a disease that can only be cured by the blood of Jesus (Jeremiah 2:22).
- 3.5 SIN is hated by God. It is the only thing that God has eternal hatred for because it separates us from Him.
- 3.6 SIN is hard work. All sin causes pain and yet people go through pain to do it.
- 3.7 SIN is bondage. It brings us under the dominance of Satan.
- 3.8 SIN sends men to hell. We are often targeted with the arrow of fire of Satan in our minds; thus, we are tempted to sin.
- 3.9 SIN is the ugliness of Christmas but it ultimately brings us to the point of its beauty. The beauty of Christmas is that Jesus came to deliver us from sin.

Conclusion:

Jesus is the reason for celebrating Christmas and the best gift that we can offer Him is ourselves (Romans 12:1). Indeed, let us erase the ugliness of Christmas by offering God every moment of our lives; to do good, to love God and others as we love ourselves.

Reflection:

1. What is the best gift we received this Christmas?
2. What gift did we offer Jesus this Christmas?

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