

Series: The Gospel According to Ebenezer Scrooge

Sermon: "Bah, Humbug!"

Primary Texts: Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 13:7; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Romans 8:28

Discussion guide:

- What are your favorite parts/traditions of the Christmas season?
 - What are your least favorite?
- Why do you think the Christmas Carol has lasted so long and been told so many times? (135 film adaptations)
- What is cynicism?
 - Many theologians and preachers claim cynicism is a sin - do agree or disagree - explain.
- Read Romans 12:2
 - According to this passage what is the key to transformation?
- Are cynical? How so?
- A cynical person distrusts other people's motive.
 - Why is this easy to fall into?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:7
 - What do you think Paul means by "always trusts" or "believes all"?
 - How does Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 13:6 that "love rejoices in the truth" affect our understanding of love always trusting in verse 7?
 - Why do you think Christian's ought to always give people the benefit of the doubt? Or the gift of trust?
 - How does this renew our minds?
- A cynical person thinks life's meaning is wrapped up in the things of the world.
 - Why is this easy to fall into?
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:9
 - How does Jesus make the Christian rich?
 - Where does the Christian find meaning for life?
 - How does this renew our minds?
- A cynical person does not believe in anything "supernatural" - they are their own "god"
 - How does this attitude lead to cynicism?
 - Why is this easy to fall into?
- Read Romans 8:28
 - What does this passage tell us about God working?
 - What can we do to gain God's working for good in our lives?
 - Will we always know the good God is working? Explain
- Why is it easy to be cynical in this world?
- Read Proverbs 3:5-6, Matthew 19:26; Colossians 3:2
 - How do each of these relate to cynicism?