

Changed

I. Introduction-

A. The lesson of the Christmas carol has been simple-

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Gal 6:7

Personal application:

1. What are some things that happened in your past that shaped who you are, for better or worse?
2. What are some things in your present circumstances that control you
3. What will your future look like, if you change nothing about yourself?
4. What might your preferred future look like assuming you make some changes?

Transformed; to change structure, to change the outward behavior

Redeemed; to free from captivity by payment of a ransom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEmbPGgYtyw>

B. The story of the Christmas carol is also part of Charles Dickens life-

<https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/how-dickens-viewed-jesus-christ>

"Jesus was good moral teacher and example for us by doing good for others' Charles Dickens

Jesus was not God in the flesh or the Savior, Messiah and Lord who died to ransom us from our sins by His death

The angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Lk 2:10

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa 9:6

"Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." The Grinch realized that the holiday spirit doesn't come from cookies and movies and presents. It comes from spending the season with those you love and being thankful for the blessings in your life. The grinch that stole Christmas, Dr. Seuss

C. Does it matter if we are redeemed or transformed?

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Mat 7:21

It is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. I Pet 1:16

Transformed; to change structure, to change the outward behavior

Redeemed; to free from captivity by payment of a ransom from the debt of our sins

If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. II Cor 4:3
For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. II Tim 4:3

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II. Is Jesus our Savior?

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God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Rom 5:8

A. Confess our need for a savior-

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. I Jn 1:8 & 2:1

Propitiation; an expiator atonement for our sins

B. The redeemed to a new life-

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. I Pet 2:24

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth. Col 2:12

C. Saved from death to life-

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Rom 6:3

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20

D. Choose life out of love-

I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him. Duet 30:19

Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Mat 16:24

III. Is Jesus our Christ (our Messiah)?

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The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." Jn 4:25

Christ; anointed, messiah

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Old-Testament-Christ.html>

<https://jewsforjesus.org/learn/top-40-most-helpful-messianic-prophecies>

A. Jesus was the messiah-

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa 9:6

He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isa 53:5

B. Jesus is the Messiah now-

"For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets. Amos 3:7

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Mat 24:32

C. Jesus is the soon returning Messiah-

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. I Thes 4:16

I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it. Zech 12:2

IV. Is Jesus my Lord?

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The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Ps 103:19

Lord; he who has power of deciding
the one who has control

A. Jesus is God-

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. Jn 1:1

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Jn 14:6

B. Jesus has the authority to command-

Jesus is "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? Lk 6:46

Whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. Jam 4:17

By this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. I Jn 2:3

C. Jesus is Lord of our circumstances-

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. I Thes 5:18

The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps. Prov 16:9

V. Summary and application-

A. The Christmas Story -Though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil 2:6

B. Our Christmas story is not about us, it is about others -

Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus. Phil 2:3

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C. The question that really matters

D. Examine ourselves to see if we are redeemed or transformed

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! II Cor 13:5

<https://crossroads-ridgecrest.org/media/67xvk9g/evidence-of-salvation>

<https://crossroads-ridgecrest.org/media/j2fdtyw/am-i-heaven-ready>