

The ghost of Christmases present

I. Introduction

Christmas; Christ mass, a joyful celebration of Jesus

Carol; to sing especially in a joyful manner

Scrooge; a miserly person, cheapskate, penny-pincher, piker skinflint, tightwad

Bah; an expression of contempt or disagreement.

Humbug; deceptive or false talk or behavior

Business; Mankind is my business, the common good is my business

A. The ghost of Christmas past

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

B. How we see the birth of Jesus and how it effects our lives-

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

Christmas; Christ mass, communion and celebration of Christ birth, and that Christ our savior and Lord now dwells is with us

II. The decisions we make in the present Christmas also have consequences-

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa 9:6

A. The Christmas story is about truth-

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. Jn 8:32 & 36

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. Jn 10:10

"Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence." President John Adams

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

B. The truth allow us to see the spiritual reality around us-

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. Col 1:12

He lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall

laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. Lk 6:20

C. Decisions made in the presence have future consequences-

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. I Jn 3:16

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Jam 2:15

"Mankind is my business, the common good is my business"

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Mat 6:19

Dear Crossroads, Thank you for sharing your witness in Baja this last weekend. I firmly believe that with man there is nothing perfect, but that weekend was about as close to perfect a build can be. I reported on the build in our meeting.

Look at what was accomplished: the family is now Christian. The house is perfectly done. Many neighbors saw your testimony. Joy was prevalent on the site and obvious to all who witnessed. You are a giving church. God loves and blesses the cheerful giver. May the Lord bless Crossroads continually! Your fellow laborer, Pablo

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? I Jn 3:16

D. A lesson in understand reality

1. The truth will set us free-

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. Jn 8:31

2. Count the cost of making a difference-

Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Mk 10:21

III. Summary and application-

A. The present time is passing as we speak-

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

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. Jn 15:7

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?

Our heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Mat 6:32

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. Jer 29:11

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. Jn 17:7