

Highway to the Manger Zone Part 1: Stop Spending. Start Investing

Objective: To encourage us to focus on the redemptive love of Jesus during the Christmas season..

Read together:

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:23-26

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:22-23

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors...

I Peter 1:18

You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

I Corinthians 6:19-20

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17

What aspects of our modern Christmas celebration do you think have the least to do with the real meaning of Christmas? Which ones have the most to do with it?

Were you surprised to hear that the Bible never once tells us to celebrate or even remember the birth of Jesus? Will that change the way you will approach Christmases in the future? Why or Why Not?

Think about all of the time, effort, energy and money you put into Christmas. How much of that would you say is spending and how much is investing?

When you think about the fact that God paid the ultimate price to invest in you, what is your immediate response?

The term redeemed simply means "to buy back". Through his death and his resurrection, Jesus bought all of us back from sin and death.

- What does it mean to you to be "free from sin?"
- What does it mean to you to have "eternal life?"

Jesus didn't just redeem us from sin and death. He also redeemed us for a life in him. On a practical level, what does it mean to live for Him?

This week: What is one way you can live your life in such a way that it points others to the redeeming love of God for them?

Final Thought: If your "Highway to the manger zone" does not bring you to a place of worship and thanksgiving for the redeeming work of Jesus in your life, then maybe you need to change the road you are on.

