

Opportunities

Christmas means different things to different people. To some it means profit and bigger sales. To others, bigger debt. To some, abundance. To others, lack. To many it means the birthday of Christ. Personally, I celebrate His birth every day. To me, Christmas has always been a time of family, fellowship and food. Santa has always been an imaginary game played between parents and children. And it provides an atmosphere for expressing those often unexpressed sentiments.

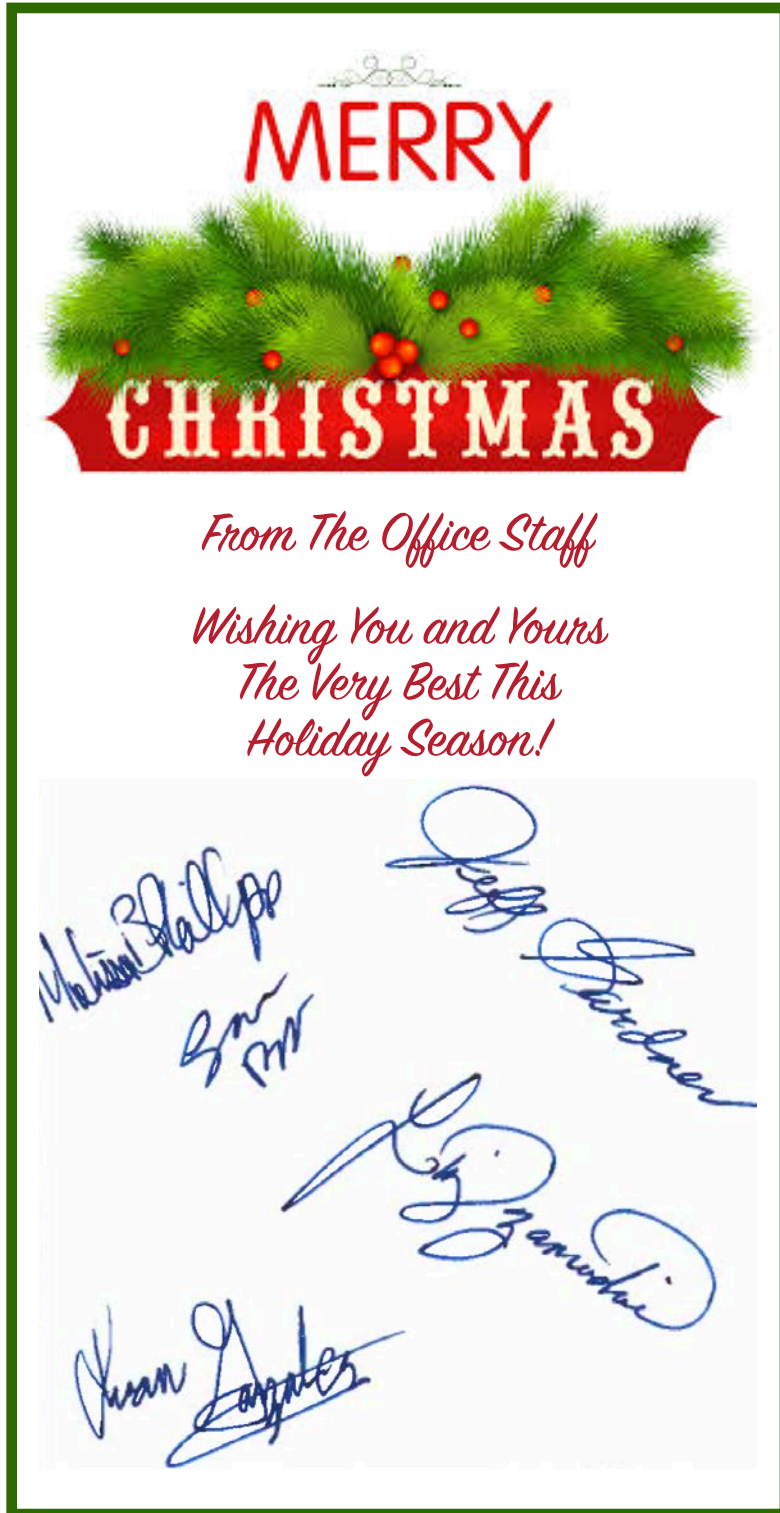
Historically, churches of Christ have shied away from endorsing Christmas as the actual birthday of Christ. It was actually probably in the Spring of the year, to be truthful. Some even consider it heresy since the Scriptures don't discuss it as an official holiday. In reality, does it really even matter? We all get a birthday and most of us celebrate in some fashion. Why not let Jesus? Our knee-jerk reaction trying to win the "we don't know the birthday of Jesus" argument has closed more doors than it ever opened.

What we really ought to do is take the opportunity to explain Jesus more fully to folks who may not really think about Him at any other time of the year. That's what Priscilla and Aquila did with Apollos (read Acts 18:24-26). This man was zealous but misguided. They didn't get into an argument with him and lose the window of opportunity. They expanded the opportunity and led him even closer to Christ. And the text confirms they did this privately so as not to shame or embarrass him.

We should take a cue from their playbook when it comes to leading others closer to Jesus. Those who are misguided can be helped or hindered. It all depends on how we approach them. We must do it lovingly and privately, taking the best advantage of the opportunity.

So rather than arguing with people who celebrate this holiday as the birth of Christ, let us thank God that they are even *thinking about Christ at all*. And then maybe, *just maybe*, we will be able to share the fullness of God's truth with someone. "Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters" (Romans 14:1). In the meantime, have yourself a very Merry Christmas!

—Jeff Gardner



Sermon Notes

Discipleship-Living: Tangible Christianity

Matthew 9:10-13; 12:1-8

In much of our nation and the world, Jesus Christ is getting a lot of attention this week in celebration of Christmas. And that is never a bad thing. Christmas is really a human attempt to make Christianity more tangible to a world which sees religion as external and irrelevant. Today we want to contrast intangible Christianity with tangible Christianity.

- I. I _____ C _____
 - A. Intangible Christianity M _____ great P _____.
 - B. Intangible Christianity C _____ great O _____.
 - C. Intangible Christianity M _____ great R _____.
 - D. In America, we don't just have a separation of church and S _____, we have a separation of church and L _____.
- II. T _____ C _____
 - A. Tangible Christianity is L _____ Christianity.
 - B. Lifestyle Christianity is a D _____ A _____.
 - C. Lifestyle Christianity is D _____ by God's A _____.
 - D. Lifestyle Christianity loves in W _____ and D _____.
 - E. Lifestyle Christianity finds comfort that we are S _____ by G _____.
 - F. Lifestyle Christianity remembers that organization is not something to be S _____ and W _____.
 - G. Lifestyle Christianity knows that rituals are S _____ R _____ of our need for God, Christ, Holy Spirit and fellowship with one another.
 - H. Tangible Christianity is a L _____ that follows C _____ by plugging into His life through the Gospels.

Announcements

- ➔ *****OPPORTUNITY TO HELP***** At least 30 tornados recently ripped across six states: Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee. More than 50 people have been killed and property damage is incalculable. The elders have designated \$2,000 to be sent to the Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team from our regular budget. If you would like to contribute additional monies to this effort, you can hand it to one of the staff or elders, place a check in the money box or use our online giving portal through the app. If you write a check, write "Disaster Relief" in the memo; if you use the app, select "Disaster Relief" as the destination of the gift. As always, thank you for your generosity!
- ➔ **Community Cupboard needs for December:** ANY non-perishable food items will be appreciated. Find the Canned Goods Tree in the lobby and let's fill up the tree!
- ➔ **The Women of Joy Conference** is coming up April 8-10, 2022 in Branson, MO. This is an amazing 3 days of fellowship and spiritual feasting that will fill your cup to overflowing. The cost to attend is \$199, which includes lodging, breakfast at the hotel and the conference fee. Transportation will be provided by the church. Please contact Liz in the office to reserve your spot. Financial assistance is available if needed.
- ➔ **End of Year Combined Worship** with Choctaw, Eastside, Ridgecrest and Del City will be at Choctaw this year on December 29. If you would like transportation, please contact the church office to make arrangements.

Dates To Remember:

- TODAY @ Noon Potluck Luncheon
- TODAY @ 5-8 PM DCYG Christmas Party
- December 21 @ 7-9 AM Community Cup in the Coffee Shop
- December 22 @ 8 AM Men's Breakfast @ Madison's
- December 22 NO Wednesday Night Classes or Meal
- December 23-24 Office is Closed for the Christmas Holiday
- December 28 @ 7-9 AM Community Cup in the Coffee Shop
- December 29 @ 8 AM Men's Breakfast @ Madison's
- December 29 @ 7 PM Area-Wide Night of Worship Hosted by Choctaw church of Christ—NO meal or adult classes at Del City Campus. Please make plans to attend at Choctaw, 14998 E Reno Avenue, Choctaw, OK 73020, as we unite in worship together!
- December 29 DCYG "Goodbye 2021" Lock-In
- December 31 Office is Closed for the New Year Holiday
- January 14-16 DCYG Winter Fest 2022

Response Form

If you would like to respond to the invitation, please fill out this form and hand it to the minister when the invitation song is being sung.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Date ____/____/____

I come in response to the invitation of Christ...

- To confess Jesus as Lord and be baptized for the forgiveness of my sins.
- To be restored and ask for prayers.
- To transfer my church membership from another church.
- To ask for specific prayers for myself or someone else.

Comments: _____

Staff:

Sam Day, *Youth Minister*
(913) 353-4892

Jeff Gardner, *Senior Minister*
(405) 550-7658

Ivan Gonzalez, *Connections Minister*
(405) 923-4964

Melissa Phillips, *Children's Ministry Leader*
(405) 625-3922

Liz Zamudio, *Secretary*
(405) 476-7898

Shepherds:

Chad Barney (405) 821-6794

Mark Carr (405) 740-4354

Chris Dillinger (405) 830-6456

Tim Hempel (405) 990-1729

Dutch Schneider (405) 823-7913

Melvin Thompson (405) 606-9253

Rob Weaver (405) 301-4889

Adiel Zapata (405) 664-7729

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Welcome To Our
**Sunday Morning
Family Worship**
December 19, 2021

Please fill out an attendance card and pass to the aisle for collection at the close of worship. Yellow for our Guests; White for Members.

Order of Worship

Song #997, *O Come, All Ye Faithful*Tim Holt
 WelcomeTim Holt
 Song, *I Will Call Upon The Lord*.....Tim Holt
 Song, *You Are Holy*.....Tim Holt
 Song, *Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord*Tim Holt
 PrayerTerry Craghead
 Song, *Calvary*Tim Holt
 Communion.....Sam Day
 Song #664, *Take My Life and Let It Be*Tim Holt
 OfferingSam Day
 Scripture Reading, *Luke 2:8-20*David Martin
 Song #15, *Step By Step*.....Tim Holt
 Message, *Discipleship-Living: Tangible Christianity*Jeff Gardner
 Song #662, *All to Jesus I Surrender*Tim Holt
 Closing AnnouncementsJeff Gardner
 Prayer.....Melvin Thompson
 Song #859, *When All of God's Singers Get Home*.....Darrel Sullivan

Schedule of Assemblies

Sunday

Worship 10:00 AM
Classes 11:15 AM

Wednesday

Early Class 4:30 PM
Mid-Week Classes 7:00 PM
Hispanic Class 7:00 PM

Attended Nursery from birth to 2 years is available for Sunday.
For transportation to Worship and Other Assemblies Call (405) 672-1311 M-F, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.