

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER THIS CHRISTMAS

Week of December 13, 2020 A.D.

This week, we will discuss three principles that will help others know and experience the love of Christ as we celebrate the Christmas season.

I. Keep It Simple

Read 2 Corinthians 11:3

In the King James version, 2 Cor. 11:3 reads as follows: “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1 – 5. Do these verses contain “the message of the gospel”? If not, why not? Of so, what is the gospel message? Is the gospel message “simple to convey and understand? Please explain your answers.
2. When you compare the lifestyle of 21st century America to the lifestyle of 1st century Israel, did Jesus live a life of (a) simplicity and/or (b) humility? Should our lives be as simple and/or humble as the life of Jesus? Please explain your answers.
3. Which is a better reflection of the life and values of Jesus as we celebrate the Christmas season: (a) days and nights full of shopping and other activities or (b) spending time with people who need and want your love? Please explain your answers.
4. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “As followers of Christ, we should keep our holidays simple so that we will be free to serve those in need and free to celebrate with the people we love.”

II. Be There

Read 1 John 4: 7 – 12

5. Read verse 9 out loud. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “We give love to people at Christmas when we show up in their lives to serve them and/or to celebrate with them in the name of Jesus.”

6. Based on your knowledge of the life of Jesus, give an example of an instance when Jesus gave to another person or persons: (a) his time, (b) his focused attention when they needed help, (c) his comfort, (d) his protection, (e) his wisdom about how we are to live our lives, and (f) money or material gifts.

7. In your opinion, how do the following actions give honor to Jesus as a way of celebrating His birthday: (a) shopping for non-essential gifts to give to others, (b) giving non-essential gifts to others, and (c) spending time with others and giving them your focused attention? Please explain your answers.

8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you will never get back. You can always make more money, but you can't make more time."

III. Give with Delight

Read 2 Corinthians 9: 6 – 7; 11

9. Which honors God the most (a) accumulating money or possessions or (b) giving generously to meet the material needs of others? Does God expect Christians to be the most generous people on earth? Does God promise to richly reward each Christian according to their generosity to others? Please explain your answers.

10. Does God want you to give to Him your possessions? Or, does God want you to give to Him your heart? Can God have your heart if God does not also have your possessions? Please explain your answers.

11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Giving is not just about money and possessions. God also expects us to be generous toward others with our talents and our time."

12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The essence of the celebration of Christmas is that we simply and humbly give of ourselves to others just as God gave generously and sacrificially to us through His Son Jesus Christ."

Consider: Jesus came to earth to offer us forgiveness and eternal life. This is the good news which we can share with others by giving to them our time, talents, money, possessions, and friendship at Christmas and throughout the year. "You think about that." Amen.