

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### CHRIST, CHRISTMAS AND THE CANDY CANE

#### SCRIPTURE READING:

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isa 53:5).

- o "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures" (1 Cor 15:3).
- o "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered" (Heb 5:8).
- o "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb 9:28).
- o "<sup>24</sup> Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. <sup>25</sup> For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" (1 Pet 2:24-25).

#### INTRODUCTION:

A. Jesus often taught spiritual lessons by referring to various objects or animals. Jesus also used parables to teach spiritual lessons.

1. The disciples were arguing about who would be "the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matt 18:1-6).

#### Study Question #1:

"Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

2. Jesus used a coin when the religious leaders questioned Him about paying taxes (Matt 22:15-22).

#### Study Question #2:

What is the spiritual lesson related to paying taxes?

3. In the parable of the rich man, Jesus informed him to beware of covetousness. Jesus actually referred to Him as "thou fool" (Luke 12:13-21).

#### Study Question #3:

What spiritual lessons can a Believer glean from this parable?

## **B. The History of Candy Cane**

The original candy cane was made 350 years ago. Over time the candy cane has become a symbol and tradition during the Christmas holiday, used as a decoration for Christmas trees. The first candy cane was not made in the shape of a cane. It was white, completely straight and only flavored with sugar. Legend has it that in 1670, the cane shaped candy became historical when a choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany bent the sugar-sticks into canes to appear as shepherd's hooks. The all-white candy canes were given out to children who attended the ceremonies. This became a popular tradition, and eventually the practice during church ceremonies which spread all over Europe and America.

The first documented example of the use of candy canes to celebrate Christmas occurred in 1847, when August Imgard, a German-Swedish immigrant, from Wooster, Ohio decorated the Christmas tree with paper ornaments and candy canes. The solid white sugar canes were on Christmas cards in the early 1900's. The first red and white striped candy canes were made at the turn of the 19th century. At the same time the first striped candy canes appeared, and candy makers added the peppermint flavor which quickly became a traditional flavor.

## **I. It Can Teach About Sin**

### **A. Originally, the Candy Cane was completely straight.**

- Mankind was completely straight before the fall - Adam and Eve (Gen 2:16-17; 3:1-13).

### **B. The Candy Cane is crooked in shape**

1. This is the way of every person born of Adams race (Ps 58:3; 51:5; Rom 3:10, 23).
2. Sinner by Birth
  - a. A person does not have to be taught to do wrong, we must work at teaching a person to do right.
  - b. All are born in sin (Rom 5:12)

### **C. Many will be doomed (eternally lost) by the sin of unbelief (John 3:18; 5:40)**

## **II. It Can Teach About the Shepherds**

### **A. The Shepherds staff as it stands upright - "J."**

The Shepherds used the staff to keep the sheep from wandering away from the flock, getting lost or harmed by predators.

### **B. Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 14)**

"The Lord is my Shepherd" (Ps 23:11). He will protect us from wandering away, getting lost or hurt.

## **Study Question #4:**

**How does Jesus protect us?**

- C. Shepherds were viewed as unclean and lowly (lower class individuals and social outcast). Jesus died for the whole human race (1 John 2:2; John 3:16; 14:6; Rom 5:6, 8, 10).

### III. It Can Teach About Righteousness

The color white is a symbol of righteousness and purity.

- o Jesus was the spotless (pure, unblemished - sinless), Lamb of God. Therefore, He came to be the sacrifice for our sins (John 1:29; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 1:18-19; 2 Pet 2:21-14).

### IV. It Can Teach About Sacrifice

The red stripes teach of the Blood of Jesus that was shed for sinners (Isa 53:5; 1 Pet 2:24).

- A. Jesus suffered a severe physical beating before being crucified (Matt 27:28-20; Mark 14:65; 15:15).
- B. The red stripes on the Candy Cane should remind us that Jesus suffered and died, so that we can have everlasting life.

### V. It Can Teach About The Savior

When the Candy Cane is upside down it is the letter "J." Jesus' precious name starts with the letter "J." Christmas is Jesus' birthday (Matt 1:21; Luke 1:31).

### VI. It Can Teach About Sweetness

A. Candy is Sweet - Peppermint (similar to hyssop used for purification in the Old Testament).

B. It is also indicative of the sweet spices brought by the wise men when they came to visit Jesus (Ps 51:7; Matt 2:11).

C. "O taste and see that the Lord is God" (Ps 34:8)

**CONCLUSION:**

**Look At The Candy Cane**

Look at the Candy Cane, What do you see?  
Stripes that are red, like the blood shed for  
me.

White is for my Savior, Who is sinless and  
pure!"J" is for Jesus my Lord, that's for  
sure.

Turn it around and a staff you will see,  
Jesus my Shepherd, was born for Me!



**MEMORY VERSE:**

**“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matt 1:21).**

From the Teaching Ministry of:  
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"... the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isa 40:8).