

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

CHRISTMAS: A TIME FOR CARING AND LOVING

SCRIPTURE READING:

- **“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isa 7:14).**
- **“⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this (Isa 9:6-7).**
- **“²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. ²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.**
- **“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law” (Gal 4:4).**

INTRODUCTION:

A. The True Meaning of Christmas

1. It is the Good News that God sent His Only Son to earth to save people from their sins.
2. For the Christian, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, seen as God becoming human to bring salvation, love, hope, and eternal life to the world.
3. The birth of Jesus Christ signifies the arrival of the promised Savior, offering hope and the path to redemption.

B. Christian Quotes about Christmas

1. “The Best Christmas Gifts to Give:

- To your friend, loyalty;
- To your enemy, forgiveness;
- To your Boss, service;
- To a child, a good example;
- To your parents, gratitude and devotion;
- To your mate, love and faithfulness;
- To all men and women, charity.” – Oren Arnold

2. “I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year.” – Charles Dickens
3. “God seeks to influence humanity. This is at the heart of the Christmas story. It is the story of light coming into the darkness, of a Savior to show us the way, of light overcoming the darkness, of God’s work to save the world.” – Adam Hamilton

In this Bible Study, we will meditate on Christmas as a time of Caring and Loving.

I. A TIME OF CARING

“Caring” “means showing solitude, anxiety, heedfulness, and concern for welfare, often involving diligent attention or provision for others.” – KJV Dictionary

A. God the Father had Compassion by Giving us His Son.

1. **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).**

Jesus is the way to salvation, redemption, and eternal life. He understands our every weakness and desires to help us.

2. **“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him” (Ps 103:13).**

This Father-Child relationship illustrates God’s desire for a personal and loving relationship with His Believers. God as the compassionate Father is a Great Provider, Protector, and Counselor to His children. God has compassion on those who fear (respect) Him. God is compassionate to those who honor Him and live obedient to His Word.

B. Jesus Christ Had Compassion by Giving His Life for Our Sins

- “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).
- “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8).
- “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21).

Christ came to save us – showing compassion – from the penalty of sin, the power of sin and eventually, one day, from the presence of sin.

C. Jesus Christ Showed Compassion With His Healing Ministry

1. **Jesus heals a man with leprosy (Mark 1:40-45)**

Jesus was “moved with compassion,” reached out, touched the unclean man and declared, “I will; be thou clean.” Immediately Jesus healed him.

2. **Christ demonstrated compassion by raising the widow of Naim’s son from the dead (Luke 7:11-17).**

Seeing the grieving mother, Christ stopped a funeral procession, “Touched the Bier,” and raised her dead son, giving him back to his mother.

3. **Christ demonstrated compassion to the Infirm Woman (Luke 13:10-17)**

On the Sabbath, Christ saw a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years (bent over). He called her to Him, laid His hands on her and she was made straight.

D. We are to Show Compassion To Others

1. Ways that we can show compassion towards others

- **Listen Actively** – seek understanding, by non-judgmental
- **Serve Others** – give of your time, talent, and resources, volunteer at charitable organizations.
- **Pray for the Needs of Others**
- **Visit the Elderly, the Sick and the Lonely**
- **Sacrifice** – be willing to be interrupted, take risks and serve others even when it is inconvenient.

- **“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” (Eph 4:32).**

- 2. According to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,** “too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

II. A TIME OF LOVING

We are to Show Love Towards Others

“Love” means a steadfast, active choice to seek the highest good for another, often involving sacrifice, faithfulness, and kindness (KJV Dictionary).

A. True Love is Sacrificial

God demonstrated His love by sending His Son, Jesus Christ to die for us – those “without strength, ... the ungodly ... sinners and His enemies” (Rom 5:6-10).

B. Christ Died for the Whole Human Race – He Does Not Want Anyone to Perish

- “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9).

C. As Believers, We are to Practice Agape Love Which is True Love

“Agape Love” refers to the love of God, which is divine, immeasurable, incomparable, perfect, unconditional, sacrificial, pure, unchanging, and non-reciprocal – this is the highest form of love.

- **Jesus said, “Love Your Enemies”** (Matt 5:43-48)
- **Jesus said, “Love One Another”** (John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12).

D. Christ Has Warned us to Love Even When Done Wrong

1. Do Not Retaliate

³⁸ Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

³⁹ But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. ⁴¹ And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. ⁴² Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away (Matt 5:38-42).

2. Do Not Get Even With Others

¹⁷Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. ¹⁸If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good (Rom 12:17-21).

3. Repay Evil Doers With Love, Blessings and Patience

- “God loves you. He loves you yesterday, He loves you tomorrow. He loves you always. Regardless if you mess up.” – BibleGodQuotes.com
- “God’s love is impartial. He makes His sun to rise on the good and the evil. If God gave us what we deserve, all of us would deserve condemnation.” – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Matt 5:45).
- **“I shall allow no man to belittle my soul by making me hate him”** – Booker T. Washington
- **“... Love is of God”** (1 John 4:7); **“God is Love”** (1 John 4:8); **“He Loved Us”** (1 John 4:10); **“God So Loved Us”** (1 John 4:11).
- **Love God, Others and Yourself**
³⁷Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself (Matt 22:37-39).

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1. Celebrate the True Meaning of Christmas Throughout the Year by Caring and Loving**
- 2. Keep the “Main Thing, the Main Thing”: Christ is Christmas and Christmas is Christ.**
- 3. Love All People, Just as God Loves Us**
 - a. Be sure to tell God that you love Him.
 - b. Be sure to tell others that you love them.
- 4. True Love is Giving and Caring without Repayment – which is different from the world’s view.**

KEY VERSE:

¹⁹We love him, because he first loved us. ²⁰If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? ²¹And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also” (1 John 4:19-21).

CHALLENGE:

At Christmas time, there is much gift giving. The Bible encourages us to give to those who cannot repay .

This is the challenge for all of us: Give to those in need - Unreciprocating Giving!

- A. “¹² Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. ¹³ But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: ¹⁴ And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just (Luke 14:12-14).

Jesus encourages us to invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind to the feast because they cannot repay. Christ promises a blessing for you at the resurrection of the just.

- B. “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it” (Prov 3:27).

Do not withhold goods from others when it is in your power to help them.

- C. **When you help the poor, you lend to the Lord, who will repay you.**

Helping the poor is the same as if we had offered it to God.

- “He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again” (Prov 19:17).
- “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matt 25:40).

CONCLUSION:

- A. **Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas – The Birth of the Savior – Jesus Christ – “The Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world (John 1:29).**

B. **Our Greatest Need**

"If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator."

"If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist."

"If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist."

"If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer."

"But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior." – Roy Lessin

C. **Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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