



As the festive season of Christmas approaches, it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of shopping, decorating, and planning celebrations. However, at the heart of Christmas lies a profound message of love, hope, and joy that transcends the commercial aspects of the holiday.

Christmas commemorates the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, a momentous event that brought light into a world of darkness. The story of the Nativity, with its themes of humility, faith, and divine love, serves as a reminder of the true essence of this season.

The Nativity story begins with the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary, a humble young woman in Nazareth, that she would conceive a child by the Holy Spirit. Despite the extraordinary nature of this news, Mary's faith and obedience were unwavering as she responded with, "I am the Lord's servant. May your **WORD** to me be fulfilled."

Mary and her betrothed, Joseph, traveled to Bethlehem in response to a decree from Caesar Augustus that required all to return to their ancestral towns for a census. Upon their arrival, they found no room in the inns, and so they took shelter in a humble stable. It was here, in the most modest of surroundings, that Jesus, the Savior of the world, was born. Mary laid him in a manger, a feeding trough for animals, signifying his future role as the Bread of Life.

The first visitors to witness this miraculous event were shepherds tending their flocks nearby. An angel appeared to them, proclaiming the birth of the Messiah, and they hurried to Bethlehem to see the child wrapped in swaddling clothes. Their joy and amazement were shared with all they encountered, spreading the good news of Jesus' birth.

Additionally, wise men from the East, guided by a magnificent star, embarked on a long journey to pay homage to the newborn King. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, each symbolizing a different aspect of Jesus' identity and mission—gold for his kingship, frankincense for his divinity, and myrrh for his future suffering and death.

To understand the significance of the Nativity, it's essential to appreciate the cultural and historical context. During this period, the Jewish people were living under Roman occupation and were yearning for the promised Messiah who would bring salvation and restore their nation. The birth of Jesus in such humble circumstances, with its accompanying signs and wonders, fulfilled ancient prophecies and offered a new hope to the world.

The angels' proclamation to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests," encapsulates the essence of Christmas. It's a message of peace and goodwill, a call to unity, and a reminder of God's unending love for humanity.

In a world often filled with challenges and uncertainties, the message of Christmas remains a beacon of hope. It calls us to embody the virtues of love, kindness, and generosity, just as Jesus taught. By reflecting on the teachings of Christ and embracing the spirit of giving, we can find renewed purpose and meaning during this special time of year.

As we gather with family and friends, let us remember the humble beginnings of Jesus and the profound impact of his life and teachings. May this Christmas be a time of spiritual renewal, where we celebrate the gift of love and the promise of a brighter future.

**“So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing
by the WORD of God.” Romans 10:17**

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Let's Do Christmas Different this Year

Christopher Kolker MD

This Christmas, when you think about Jesus, think about that wonderful Nativity scene with the cute little baby Jesus, the adorable lambs, the adoring parents, the beautiful star, and a host of angels illuminating the sky. Actually, forget about all of that! That's just sugarcoating God's gift to us. Let's be real this Christmas. Let's worship in a way that matters. That will make the holidays uniquely different. If we want to look at something cute and cuddly, go out and buy a puppy. This is the Son of God we are talking about. We don't deserve His coming here. In His eyes, we are dirty, insubordinate, utterly sinful and absolutely disrespectful to the Creator of the Universe. Most of us spend our days doing the exact opposite of what He wants. Still, our Lord sent Jesus down to be sacrificed to save us from our sins. The torture, torments, and the savagery of mankind that He endured is as real as it gets. No greater sacrifice exists in all of creation.

This Christmas, when we worship the Lord, don't do it like a child. Forget the cute babies and the little lambs. We know we're going to die soon and have to give a full accountability of our entire life to our Lord. We must be real. Therefore, this Christmas, get on a bended knee. Finally, truly worship him. Give thanks to Him. Ask for repentance. Promise to do better and go out and keep that promise. If you start your prayers with, "God, it's been a while" or "God, it's me," that's not showing the proper reverence. He already knows how long it's been; He already knows it's you, and by saying such things you make it seem like you are somehow equals. I will assure you; you are not His equal.

Instead start with, "Our Father who art in heaven" or "Lord God, Creator of the Universe," or "Jesus save me from my sins," or "Lord, simply tell me what to do and I will do it." Whichever you use, pray with abandon. And after you commit your life to Him and ask for forgiveness, go out with eternal joy. Not the kind of joy because you saw a cute baby at a Nativity scene, but because you have the kind of joy that knows He is the Ruler of the Universe who cares about His creation. You know He cares about you, and if you give your life to Him, your future is undeservedly assured.

And that's the joy of Christmas.



DALLAS WE HEARD YOU AND WE ARE COMING!!!

We have listened to your requests, and we are excited to announce **Spreading the WORD** is now coming to the Dallas, Fort Worth Metroplex area!

Beginning December 1, 2024 the Spreading the **WORD** program will be aired each Sunday morning from 7:30—8:00 am over 95.7 FM, 93.1 FM and KCLE 1460AM. The program will also be streamed over the hosting stations website which you can find at Wilkinsradio.com and their app. The broadcast will cover the Dallas, Fort Worth metroplex down into the Waco area. It will have a potential listen audience of 6.8 MILLION people. That is massive, considering Rio de Janeiro, Brazil has a population of approximately 6.8 million people.

God is working in Spreading the **WORD** Ministry. With the passing of Brother Nicholson many have wondered and asked what the future held for Spreading the **WORD**. We feel that this is a direct and very obvious answer to our prayers.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your financial support, hard work, and prayers. Your contributions have made this launch possible. However, the journey doesn't end here—there is still a need for your continued support. We still need your help to keep this work alive and reaching every soul we can. All of your assistance—whether through donations, volunteer work, or prayers—makes a tremendous difference. Together, we can spread the Gospel even further.

Dallas, Fort Worth Metroplex and you folks down there in WACO get ready to be inspired and uplifted.

Candy canes have long been a symbol of Christmas. They pop up the day after Halloween and can be found in nearly every flavor imaginable. This precious story retells of the legend of the first candy cane.

An old candymaker wanted to teach the local children the real meaning of Christmas. With the help of his granddaughter, he made a new candy to tell them about Jesus. He flavored it with peppermint to remind the children of the spices the wise men brought to Jesus. Its hardness reminded them Jesus is "the Rock" (1 Corinthians 10:4), and the white symbolized His sinless life. Its staff-like shape was meant to remind them that He is the Good Shepherd, and when flipped is a "J" for Jesus. The stripes symbolize the cross and the wounds He endured. The red represented the love of God and the blood He shed (John 3:16). All aspects combined, this sweet treat beautifully illustrated what Jesus did for us.

Next time you pick up a candy cane, remember the old candymaker and the meaning he wanted the candy cane to remind us of.



From all of the volunteers and Board of Directors at Spreading the WORD Ministry, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas.
