

THE BEREANS

apttoteach.org

ACTS 17:11

1 Peter 5:1-7
Lesson #20
Christmas gifts
12/20/2020



Why is Christmas such a big deal?

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?



Who and why do we celebrate?

1

Why is Christmas such a big deal?

The Advent



*It reveals both human dignity
(God could become human)
and our value to God
(the price of our redemption).*

2

Christmas reminds us that -

*Human depravity
does not remove
our **dignity**.*

*Jesus' deity
does not exclude
his **humanity**.*

*Adam's fall did not remove
God's image from humanity,
but initiated a greater revelation
of God's sacrificial love
and the value of humanity,
through the Advent of Christ.*

3

Christmas reveals what God wants us to see in Him and in ourselves.

The greatest gift we can give
is love for God and for all
those He loves.

4

Emmanuel

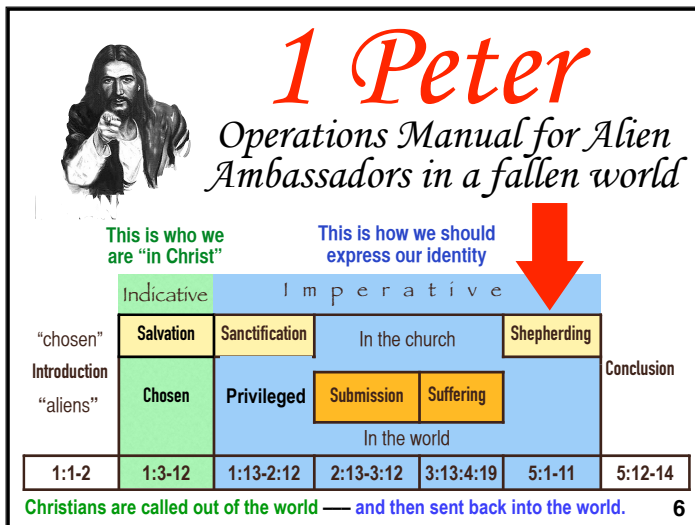
Matt. 1:23 "God with us"

1 Timothy 2:5

"For there is one God, *and* one mediator
also between God and men (humans),
the man (human) Christ Jesus,"

- When we place **ALL the emphasis** on Jesus' deity we make a mockery of the incarnation and Christmas.
- The incarnation is as much about **Jesus' humanity** as it is his deity.

5



The Chief Shepherd

1 Pet. 5:3

"the Chief Shepherd is revealed"

- It's not just that God dignifies humanity with His presence - It's the way He came to us and walked among us.
- The Way of the Cross - Jesus was both our Messiah and our model.
- His image and style (revealed in his advent) were to be reflected through his disciples and instilled in his followers, both men and women.

7

1 Peter 5

"1 Therefore, I urge elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, *and* one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 **shepherd the flock of God** among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not with greed but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

8

1 Peter 5

"5 You younger men, **likewise**, be subject to *your* elders; and **all of you**, clothe yourselves with **humility** toward one another, because God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the **humble**. 6 Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 having cast all your anxiety on Him, because **He cares about you**."

This is what "**Christ in me**" and the "**way of the Cross**" look like.

9



This is what I see in 1 Peter 5:1-7.

- #1 The heart of the "Chief Shepherd".
- #2 The "Word and Way of the Cross".
- #3 The greatest gift we can receive and give.

10

1 Peter 5

"1 **Therefore**, I urge elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, *and* one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed,"

Context

1 Peter 4:19

"Therefore, those also who **suffer according to the will of God** are to entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right."

The suffering in this life is a part of God's will as a result of His curse on the world.

Spiritual shepherds are to be "**spiritual life coaches**" helping others follow Christ as they trust God, in response to suffering.

11

Three related words

1 Peter 5

"1 I urge **elders (presbuteros)** among you,"
(This term has to do with "character and maturity")

"2 **shepherd (poimen)** the flock of God"
(This term has to do with "function and activity")

"2 exercising **oversight (bishop) (episkopos)**"
(This term has to do with "position and office")

The person
in the position of **BISHOP** (noun)
is an **ELDER** (noun) who **SHEPHERDS** (verb).

12

1 Peter 5

"2 **shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight**, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not with greed but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock."

1. The importance of **Community** (caring, feeding, protecting, encouraging)

"*Emmanuel*" "The Body of Christ"
- identifies God with us. - identifies us with God.

13

Ephesians 4

"4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. . . .11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the **building up of the body of Christ**; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

14

1 Peter 5

"2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, **not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to the will of God**; and not with greed but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock."

2. The importance of **Authenticity** (willing, eager, representing God's heart)

The path comes from the Scripture.
The passion comes from the Spirit.

15

James 3:18

"And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by **those who make peace**."

We are "**peacemakers**",
but not the "**Prince of peace**".

2 Corinthians 5:20

"Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us**; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Our role is **diplomatic**,
but not **messianic**.

16

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

"Now there are varieties of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of **ministries**, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of **effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons."

Motivations "gifts"	Ministries "ministries"	Manifestation "effects"
Perspective, Passion	Position	Profit
Rom.12	Eph.4	1 Cor.12

17

We have differing
gifts, roles, and effects.
**We are to put our best foot forward,
keep our balance, and not kick or
envy our neighbor.**

We need to know
ourselves and our role.
**We are to stay in our lane, support
one another, and work as a team.**

18

1 Peter 5

“2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and **not with greed but with eagerness**; 3 nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock.”

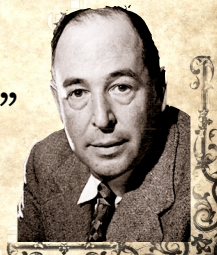
3. The importance of Graciousness
(selflessness, respect, generosity)

Know yourself - Accept yourself
- Forget yourself - Give yourself

19

“True humility is
not thinking less of
yourself; it is
thinking of
yourself less.”

C.S. Lewis



20

Philippians 2

“3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus**, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped**, 7 **but emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

21

John 10:17

“For this reason the Father loves Me, because **I lay down My life** so that I may take it again.”

**It was not Jesus’ ethical teaching,
miracles, or healings that were the
focus of the Apostles’ teaching.**

Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and **to give His life a ransom for many.**”

**Jesus was unique in that of all
religious leaders in history, he alone
came for the purpose of dying.**

22

1 Peter 5

“2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not with greed but with eagerness; 3 **nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock.**”

4. The importance of Humility (modeling,
sensitive, respectful, serving)

John 13:8

“If I do not wash you,
you have **no part with me.**”

23

Mark 10

"42 Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles **domineer over them**; and their people in high position **exercise authority over them**. 43 But it is not this way among you; rather, whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your **servant**; 44 and whoever wants to be first among you shall be **slave of all**. 45 **For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life** as a ransom for many."

24

Philippians 3

"17 Brethren, join in following **my example**, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. 18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of **the cross of Christ**."

Romans 12

"1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

25

1 Peter 5

"4 And when **the Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

**We all eagerly await
the Grand Christmas
(Christ's return) and
his glory that we will
share at that meeting.**

26

1 Peter 5

"5 You younger men, **likewise**, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with **humility** toward one another, because God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the **humble**. 6 Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 having cast all your anxiety on Him, because **He cares about you**."

**Humility and Love are at the heart
of the Christmas message and
our calling in response to it.**

27

*The Christmas message
is a notarization of:*

- **The dignity of humanity** - We bear the image of God and are worth saving. We are hardwired for fellowship with God.
- **The heart of God** - Jn. 3:16 love, humility, & substitutionary sacrifice.
- **The Word and Way of the Cross** - Jesus was both a Messiah and a model of what it means to be human.

28

**Christmas reveals what
God wants the world to see
in Him and in humanity,
and what God wants
us to show and tell.**

***The greatest gift we can
receive and give is love for
God and for all those He loves.***

29