

# THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Galatians 4:4-5

Luke 2:1-19

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** In America, the greatest looked forward to time of the year is Christmas. Perhaps also in other countries of the world but certainly in the United States Christmas is the grandest and happiest time of the year. Everyone looks forward to the surroundings of Christmas, mixing Biblical things with secular, non-biblical things. It seems that non-biblical things dominate the Biblical now days and the real meaning of Christmas is lost. Just what exactly is the "real" meaning Christmas?

## I. WHAT THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS IS NOT

1. The real meaning of Christmas is not:
  - Some fat man in a red suit who lives at the North Pole going down the chimneys of children's houses around the world leaving presents.
  - Little people called elves making toys through the year for little children.
  - A red nosed reindeer leading a group of flying reindeer pulling a sleigh through the sky.
  - A snow "man" coming to life and playing with the children.
  - Pine, fir, cedar, etc. trees decorated with glowing lights and decorations in homes.
2. The real meaning of Christmas is not:
  - Sending cards of well wishes, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year greetings.
  - Singing songs about white Christmas' or bells that jingle.
  - Stories about a man called "Scrooge" and a little boy called "Tiny Tim, etc."
  - Having Christmas "dinner" with all the family.
3. The real meaning of Christmas is not all the commercialism stores use to try to get people to buy from them or to buy their product.
4. The list can go on and on and on, so add to it as you give "what Christmas is NOT all about."

## II. WHAT THE REAL MEANING CHRISTMAS IS

1. *"...But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons..."*
  - This is a very clear statement of why the Babe was born that night in Bethlehem long ago.
  - Jesus Christ came into this world for the express purpose of seeking the lost.
    - His birth was different from that of any other child ever born into this world.
    - *"...not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.."*
2. God did not send His Son into the world that people might enjoy a celebration built around what is happening today at Christmas time.
  - Jesus came to "redeem them that were under the law," to seek and to save lost people.
  - Jesus came to suffer and take OUR place, let us keep that fact in mind as we celebrate Christmas this year, and then perhaps a more clear understanding of the true, real meaning of this most holy season will become happen.
  - *"...And I, if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me. This He said, signifying what death He should die..." (John 12:32, 33)*

3. When Jesus was born in that little town of Bethlehem one clear, starlight night, His whole life was already pre-determined by the Heavenly Father.
  - Jesus did only the things which pleased His Father.
4. The Babe of Bethlehem came to suffer and to die.
  - All was in God's control.
    - He came into the world as a newborn baby.
    - He was presented to the world when the Holy Spirit descended upon Him as a dove and the voice of God spoke.
    - He was continually surrounded by almighty God, never left alone, was guided and strengthened day by day in His human life.
    - He had one thing in mind and that was to glorify His Father in heaven and to work the works His Father had commanded.
5. The real meaning of Christmas is ALL about God's Son, Jesus Christ and nothing else.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Has the United States of America, wandered far from the real meaning of Christmas?
2. The heart and glory of the real Christmas story is God's unspeakable gift to us, the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ who offers eternal life with only one thing for people to do and that is to accept His wonderful offer/gift.
3. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ feel uneasy about how unbelievers have added to, taken away, changed the real meaning of Christmas, taking advantage in the commercials, etc.
  - However believers can pray ***"...Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do..."***
4. During this Christmas season, remember the real meaning of Christmas, it is all about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for the sole purpose of making it possible for people who believe in Him to have eternal life with Him in His heaven.