

A NEW TYPE OF CHRISTMAS SEASON

John 3:16

Introduction: Long before the merchants discovered an advantage in lengthening the Christmas season and keeping their stores open until 9:00 p.m., Christians everywhere knew that Christmas couldn't be limited to just one day. Many Churches have imitated the merchants and have lengthened their Christmas season also. Christmas "emphasis" starts the first of December now with Church decorations changed to Christmas, music changed to Christmas hymns and sermons leading up to the wonderful day itself - Christmas. Let us do the same, let us celebrate this most wonderful season of the year as early as we possibly can. Let us start right now preparing our hearts for Christmas.

I. THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS TEXT IN THE BIBLE IS *JOHN 3:16*

1. This text points not only to Bethlehem but also to Calvary.
2. Let each of us remember why God's Son came to this earth and what prompted His coming.

II. LET US OPEN OUR HEARTS TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

1. We are beginning to hear Christmas carols over the radio and television and we are beginning to sing some of them ourselves.
2. The Christmas carols are pleasant to our ears and we don't close our ears or minds to them do we?
3. Then let us not close our hearts to the message which the words of the carols bring - Let us let the words sink deep into our hearts.
4. Jesus said, "*...Behold I stand at the door and knock...*"
- Let us unlock our hearts this year and let Jesus Christ in.

III. LET US OPEN OUR HEARTS TO OTHERS AS WELL

1. We give all sort of gifts, but have we really given the greatest gift we have - ourselves?
2. Have we really given ourselves to our family?
3. Have we given ourselves to our friends?
4. Have we really given ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ?

CONCLUSION:

1. Let this Christmas season be different than any other season. Let us not only give presents, but let us give ourselves. Let us give our all - as God did.