

## LET'S KEEP CHRISTMAS AS IT WAS

### Luke 2:1-20

**Introduction:** Have you ever noticed the changes that have taken place in your lifetime? Changes are everywhere, just look around. Places, countrysides, towns, people have changed. Thankfully there are some things that have remained unchanged, defying time, technology and advancements. True, some things need to change, but also true is the fact that some things don't need to change and Christmas is one of those things that needs to stay as it was.

### I. TRUE CHRISTMAS DOES NOT CHANGE

1. *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."*
  - That message is still the heart of Christmas and it will never change and it will never be forgotten by God's people.
  - Many things of today tend to put that message in the background such as Frosty the Snowman, Santa Claus and his reindeer, all the Christmas cards without any of the true Christmas story illustrations and then there are the women angels with blond hair or the little baby angels playing.
  - *" And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."*
2. Christmas is approaching quickly and we see it in the increased traffic, parking spaces becoming scarce, stores crowded, and almost frantic present buying. Most people don't really need presents or things that can be bought at a store.
  - What most people need can't be found nor bought at a store. For instance LOVE, then there is consideration, or a helping hand, a smile and a prayer.
  - You can't buy these things in a store, yet these are some of the very things people need most.
  - Christmas is not only for children because the older we get, the more meaningful Christmas means and the true Christmas become more clear.

### II. CHRISTMAS HAS A UNIQUE EFFECT

1. Do you feel the Christmas spirit yet?
  - Why not read the Christmas story over again, read *Luke 2:1-20* and then spend some time thinking about it and imagining what it would have been like to have actually been there.
2. There is a song someone sang that had words about "wishing everyday was like Christmas..." What if Christmas lasted all year?
  - The world would indeed be a better place, people would be more lovable, miracles would happen when there is love, hearts are full, eyes moist and everyone is all warm and soft inside. Christmas changes people.

3. Nothing really can change the joy of Christmas.
  - We put up the tree with some new decorations along with all the old ones saved through the years. The tiny manger scene with the Holy family figures with all the manger animals. Of course the wise men and their camels.
  - Great excitement and secrecy with presents hidden throughout the house, the peeking and not telling. The house filled with the fragrance of the traditional Christmas dinner and all the Christmas music filling the house.
  - Not to forget the outside decorations on the house with bells on the doors, wreaths in the windows, lights hanging from the eaves and then the stockings hung with one for every family member, even one for the pet.
  - Then at long last, finally, Christmas morning will come.
4. Don't have the Christmas spirit yet? Don't worry, you'll get it. Just remember the real meaning of Christmas, the TRUE Christmas.
  - The beginning of Christianity, the Second Chance, the Hope of Peace, The ONLY Way.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Centuries have come and gone since that first Christmas and history has proven that the ways of man lead nowhere. There is still but one way to God and to His Heaven and that is through the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus.
2. Our world is changing. Everything about us is changing. Let's do our best to Keep Christmas As It Was. It's not "Happy Holiday" but MERRY CHRISTMAS!
3. Christmas is about God's love for us and His unique gift: A Second Chance through the babe born in Bethlehem on that first Christmas.