

## THE CHRISTIAN'S CHRISTMAS IS DIFFERENT

**Galatians 4:4    Luke 2:1-18    Matthew 2:1-12**

**Introduction:** Today's Christmas is different, it has changed. Once Christmas was centered in the Church, now everybody says "Merry Christmas," "Happy Holidays." Everybody has manger scenes and other scenes describing the Christmas story and the Bethlehem star decorates the Christmas tree. Many things have been added since the non-Christian world has joined in but some things are still the same such as some of the "songs" and decorations, cards, gifts and trees. However, many things are very different from the Christian's Christmas.

### I. THE MUSIC IS DIFFERENT

1. Here are some titles from "Christmas Songs" of the non-Christian world:
  - "I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus, All I Want for Christmas is my two front Teeth, Blue Christmas, Jingle Bell Rock, Rudolph, White Christmas, Jingle Bells, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Silver Bells, I'll be Home for Christmas, Baby, it's Cold Outside, Winter Wonderland, Let it Snow, Sleigh Ride, Have Yourself a Merry White Christmas."
2. Here are some titles from "Christmas Songs" of the Christian world:
  - "Angels, from the Realms of Glory, Angels we have heard on High, Away in a Manger, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, It came upon the Midnight Clear, Joy to the World, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Silent Night, The First Noel, We Three Kings, O Holy Night."

### II. THE CHRISTMAS STORIES ARE DIFFERENT

1. Here are some titles from "Christmas stories" of the non-Christian world:
  - "Frosty, How the Grinch stole Christmas, Home Alone, Christmas Story, White Christmas, Santa Clause, 1, and countless others."
2. Here is **the** Christmas Story of the Christian world:
  - Galatians 4:4, Luke 2:1-18, Matthew 2:1-12
  - God's Promise - The Angel's Announcement - Mary - Joseph
  - Caesar August's Decree - Bethlehem - Journey - Manger - Birth
  - Angel's Appearance - Shepherds - (later on the three wise men).
3. The Christian's Christmas Story is the **real** story and the only reason for Christmas

### III. CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS IS DIFFERENT

1. The non-Christian world celebrates Christmas:
  - Office parties - Parades - Street and House Decorations
  - Santa Clause - Elves - Reindeer and sled, etc.

2. The Christian world celebrates Christmas:
  - Church programs - Cantatas - Carol Singing - Reading the Biblical Account of the Messiah's birth.
3. The Christmas "spirits" come in a way other than a bottle, for the Christian.

#### **IV. THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS IS DIFFERENT**

1. For the non-Christian world, Christmas comes but once a year in December.
2. For the Christian world, Christmas can be every day, all year long. Not just for the few days in December.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- 1, It is true that today's Christmas is made up of trees, decorations, songs, stories, gifts, trips to visit family members, Santa and the traditions accumulated for the season, but:
2. Christmas is much more than what the non-Christian world makes it to be.
3. Christmas is the Gospel Story.
4. Only the Christian can really have **both**, the world's Christmas and the real Christmas.
5. If you are not a part of God's family through faith in His Son, Jesus, who is the reason for Christmas, you will never, ever realize what Christmas is really all about.
6. A warning to Christians, "don't let the non-Christian Christmas overshadow the real Christmas story and meaning.