

11/27/22

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FBC

**Sermon – Christmas Belongs to Christians**

**Scripture – John 3:16 - 21**

**Main Message – The whole story needs to be told so people understand the choices.**

The Holiday called Thanksgiving is now past. It should not be forgotten because we should always continue to be thankful for all of our blessing and praise God for them. You may or may not realize that Thanksgiving has been under attack, both overtly and subtly. Like everything else, people are looking for opportunities to be offended and inventing ways to subvert history and tradition. Thanksgiving should belong to all the world, but the creators of everything racist have targeted thanksgiving as another white-man-bad story and invent half-truths of corruption and destroying Native Americans at will through various means. Thanksgiving history is now evil in the eyes of many. The passive way to minimize Thanksgiving is simply by calling it Turkey day. I cringe when I hear that. For some reason people just don't want to be thankful I guess. Thanksgiving should be an active part of all cultures. If you don't like the past, go back and fix it... well you can't fix it. But you can establish, re-constitute the Holiday into what it should be – being grateful for whatever blessings you recognize. If you can't recognize any blessings, then you have even bigger problems.

Now we come have come upon the season of Advent starting in a few days. Let's be honest, the latest polls regarding faith in America and those who profess faith in Christ is declining. The holiday has long since become a commercial endeavor as much as anything as well as a few days off from work and school. The vast majority of Americans will celebrate Christmas, share gifts, and not even enter into a church or recognize the celebration that is Christ's birth. It is just a holiday. The store clerks and many of those politically correct folks in the world will speak about Happy Holidays and the words Merry Christmas never is spoken. My message today is that Christmas, with all its faults is for Christians. All those Happy Holiday folks should go and pick another day and call it "Debtmas," or "Giftmas," but leave Christmas for those who believe in the savior that was born into the world. Christmas probably ruined the winter solstice for some of the pagans of long ago. Now the pagans have returned to take back their holiday. They do not honor the birth of the savior into the world. Indeed, *what are they celebrating?*

**Read John 3:14-21**

Christians love John 3:16. Its on signs and bumpers of cars. Even non-believers have heard it. Well folks, it is past time to perhaps remind people what it means to have Christ come into the world *and* what it means to reject him. Honestly, I am starting to cringe when I hear John 3:16 alone. That is leaving out some vital information. Satan spoke have truths as well. We must be more skilled with the word of God. Every time you feel like quoting John 3:16, add 17-20 as well. It is starting to sound like everyone gets a participation trophy without participating. Christmas is a celebration of Christ coming into the world. It is for those who believe, not for those who have rejected him.

When we say "believe" we are taking part in a very active process that alters the way we think, the actions we do, and we are being remade into a new person and closer to the image of Christ. Our participation is the activity of believing upon God and not rejecting him. For that, yes we get a trophy which we called the Helmet of Salvation.

Speaking the whole truth brings the most serious of perspective. Yes, God so loved the world, but rejecting Christ is as integral a part of the Gospel as anything else and folks need to hear it. So yes, Christmas is for Christians.