

Meaning Of Christmas Misunderstood



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Special To The Post
By Rev. J. A. Cuthbertson

Isn't it amazing how we get "Spiritual Events" turned around from their true meaning and use them to satisfy ourselves or motives and most of the time we mar them in God's sight. God did not and certainly the Bible does not tell us to celebrate the birth of Christ or to even remember his birth but over 39 times we will find the Bible talking about the resurrection and 14 times the resurrection of Christ. Dying is not that important as some might think. I've heard some folks say, "they won't know anything about it." Yes you will; you will be the first to know long before the coroner pronounces you dead. I believe all of us should know by now that it is "appointed unto all men once to die" (Hebrews 9:27). Some think that this is all there is to it. If you would read a little further you will find "then come the judgment" meaning that death is not the end. There is a resurrection. And in my opinion not these old bodies of ours as some believe, but a new body. Philippians 3:21 says who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body.

John 3:2 says "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear (that is, Christ), we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." But to dust goes these old bodies of ours where they come from.

Genesis 3:19, Ecclesiastes 3:20, 12:7. Paul said in II Corinthians 5:8 to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. If one would look at the process of "birth, death and the resurrection" you will find that the most important thing about this train of events is the resurrection, especially when we are dealing with Christ.

The atheist would say about the birth of Christ, "So what? Babies are being born everyday, every hour, somewhere, big deal", and about His death (that some atheists would say "So what? Thousands of people die everyday somewhere, somehow, big deal") Then comes the big boom on this atheist, "Tell me Mr. & Mrs. Atheist, how many do you know out of all these thousands or millions you are talking about was self-resurrected? I'll tell you, "Only one, the man called Christ Jesus". You may ask what about "Enoch and Elijah? Some say they did not die. Then I tell you to read Revelation 11:3-12. This will take care of those two boys. So as we come to this "blessed day" of the year, it would be nice to, at least, give thanks to God for sending His son into the world and not put so much emphasis on buying and spending from a lot of those who don't believe the Messiah has come and are still looking for Him.

Their stores will be decked out with lights, trees, Santa Claus and reindeers and none of this has anything to do with Christ's birthing day or death and certainly not His resurrection. Why not look at Jeremiah 10:1-6.

The devil has many ways to get us to bow down to him; it may mean only picking up a present under a tree. So if we really want to serve God and reverence Christ on this 25th day of December, why not do as I heard Dr. L.C. Riddick, the pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church did? He asked his members to "give to mission through the church the same amount they were going to spend on gifts." And I might add, liquor and beer, etc. After all it's Christ's birthday we are celebrating. This would be one gift I believe God would accept and bless us for. That's what giving is all about. Those wise men who came to Bethlehem of Judea, (Matthew 2:11) to present gifts to Christ, gave to one they had never met before and probably will never see again. (Matthew 2:12)

We only give to those we expect to receive from and cross them off our list next year if we don't. Check out our giving Luke 6:33-35. There is nothing wrong with giving. The spirit of giving is good but check the motives behind our giving.

There are those who will give thousands of dollars to one per-

son to have a transplant heart, eye, kidney, and at the same time will allow thousands to starve to death and won't give a dime. I wonder what Christ would do? After all, it's His "Birthday" we are celebrating.

That first Christmas gift was not a gift to a child. It was the gift of a child. Love prompts gifts to those near and dear. Greater love, unbounded love, prompts

gifts of self and gifts of those nearest and dearest in order that the world may be blessed. Christmas Day has not ever been counted as the one day of all the year for the giving of life in Christian service. It is a day set to celebrate the manifestation of God's wondrous gift to mankind. How better could that manifestation be celebrated than by the full consecration of life to the same

end for which the life of Jesus was given?

The gift of life is the most costly gift that can be made. The man who gives millions does not give half as much as the man who gives himself fully, unreservedly with oneness of purpose as a servant of mankind.

All other gifts are but toys and tinsel.

Give your life to Christ today.

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<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Apple Juice</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">99¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">64 Oz. - Tree Top</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Stokely Vegetables</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3/99¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">14 Oz. - Cut Or French Style Green Beans/15 Oz. Whole Kernel Or Cream Style Corn/14.5 Oz. Honey Pod Peas</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Sour Cream</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">95¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">16 Oz. - Food Lion</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Food Lion Egg Nog</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">89¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Half Gallon..... 1.77</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Folger's Flaked Coffee</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.69</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">11.5 Oz. - AD/EP</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Krispy Crackers</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">69¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">1 Lb. - Sunshine</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Blue Bonnet Margarine</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">39¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">1 Lb. - Quarters</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Crescent Rolls</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.19</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">8 Ct. - Pillsbury</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Mario's Olives</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">99¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">10 Oz. - Stuffed Manz.</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Wise Snacks</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">89¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">8.5 Oz. - Reg./Mild Potato Chips 8 Oz. - Puffed & Crunchy Cheese Doodles..... .99</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Betty Crocker Cake Mixes</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">69¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">16 Oz. - White/Yellow/Butter/Double Food</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Tropic Isle Coconut</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">49¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">8 Oz. - Frozen</p>