

Enjoying the Season - Part 2  
The Grinch Didn't Steal Christmas  
12/08/2019

- Why the Grinch Didn't Steal Christmas
- Christmas Wins
- God entered time and space
- When a dog plays checkers, you never criticize his game

*Matt. 1:18-23 (NIV) This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

**Why Christmas Wins:**

1st) There is a **NEED**.

*Gen. 6:5-6 (NIV) The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.*

**3 Reasons for the need:**

A) We're **CREATED** to connect to God.

- Human beings were created to honor God.
- We were made by God for God.

B) We're **PRONE** to wander.

- Your spouse makes a terrible savior!
- Your children make terrible saviors!
- Your job, your money, your accomplishments - they all make terrible saviors!

C) We end in **CHAOS**.

*2 Cor. 5:15 (NIV) And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

#### **4 False Efforts:**

##### **OURSELVES**

- Love of self
- You will step over God's boundaries again and again

##### **OTHERS**

- I marry you because I love you and have a wonderful plan for your life
- You've given birth to self-sovereigns.

The **WORLD**

##### **RELIGION**

2nd) There is a **FEAR**.

*Gen. 6:7-8 (ESV) So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."*

- God was grieved
- People were making decisions that caused harm to themselves

*2 Timothy 1:7 (TLB). For the Holy Spirit, God's gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them"*

#### **Fear and Relationships:**

A) Fear makes us **DEFENSIVE**.

B) Fear keeps us **DISTANT**.

C) Fear makes us **DEMANDING**.

*1 John 4:18 (NIV) "There is no fear in love. But perfect love casts out all fear"*

*John 8:32 (NIV) "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"*

#### **2 Ways to Fight Fear:**

Practice the **PRESENCE** of Jesus.

- God is with me

*God knows your deepest struggles and your darkest secrets! He knows all the things you desperately don't want anyone else to know. And none of it - NONE OF IT - causes him to blink or bail on you. Jesus is the hound of heaven who continues to pursue you. Once he finds you he never leaves you!*

**FACE** the fear.

*Zech. 4:10 (NLT) Do not despise the days of small beginnings for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.*

*Luke 2:10 (NCV) The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people.*

3rd) There is **GRACE**.

*Gen. 6:8 (ESV) But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.*

*Gal. 4:4-5 (NCV) But when the right time came, God sent his Son who was born of a woman and lived under the law. God did this so he could buy freedom for those who were under the law and so we could become his children.*

*Matt. 1:21-23 (NIV) She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us")*

- This is the Gospel of God's Grace

*Romans 1:16 (NIV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.*

- Salvation hasn't just happened...it's still happening
- We need grace because we fail, because we lie, because we hide things, because we get mad when we don't get our way, because we gossip because we're impatient, because we're not thankful, we're not helpful, we hold grudges and we don't forgive as God has forgiven us, we think we're better than others, because other people's sins bother us more than our own. Bottom line - We all need grace!!

**In Christ:**

A) You're **SECURE**.

*Romans 8:1-2: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the life-giving Spirit in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.*

B) You're **LOVED**.

*Romans 8:38-39 (NIV) For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

C) You're **CHOSEN**.

*Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV) But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

D) Your **WHOLE**.

*Col. 2:10 (NLT) So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.*

Q. I would like to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and give the rest of my life over to the will of God, but I don't know how to do this.

- Salvation is simply a matter of running to Jesus...period.
- Jesus will never send away anybody who comes to him.
- Nobody is qualified.
- All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
- At the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
- The sacrifice of Christ is totally sufficient for all our sins.