

## Teaching the True Meaning of Christmas

Too often today our children are exposed to ideas about Christmas which are "More Tinsel than Truth."

While traditions are an integral part of the Christmas season, it is important for us to teach our children the truth behind the celebration of Christmas: **The birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

This teaching can be done in fun and interesting ways. There is no reason to diminish the fun or festivity of the season.

In fact, if you think about it, we Christians have the greatest reason to celebrate and be merry during this time of the year! We celebrate the fact that the Savior, God's One and Only Son, Jesus, was born here on the earth!

Like the angel said to the shepherds...

*"...behold, I bring you **good tidings of great joy**, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is **Christ the Lord.**" (Luke 2:10-11)*

It's good news... not bad news! It is fun and exciting, not dull and uninteresting! Just imagine a birth announcement given by an angel who was joined by "a multitude of the heavenly host" praising God and saying...

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14)*

After a start like that, our retelling of this same news should at least be fun and interesting!

Let us rekindle that sense of awe and wonder in our hearts which causes us to whisper as we talk about the wise men following the Star of Bethlehem, and to raise our voices in song when we think of those angels from the realms of glory!

Christmas is more than tinsel and tradition. It is fact... not fancy.

Having said that, we don't have to be heavy handed or "Scrooge-like." We don't have to go around trying to dash people's dreams about Christmas, or to rout out every non-biblical notion. After all, tinsel and traditions are fun, and some of our traditions have roots in ancient facts.

We just have to make sure that we present the truth as well. When asked, we can refer to the "true part" of Christmas and the "pretend part" of Christmas. We can assure our Little Ones that even if the pretend part happens to go away one day... *(as it inevitably does)*... the true part will NEVER go away. NO ONE can ever take that part away from you!

The true part of Christmas is that well over 2000 years ago a baby was born here on earth, to a virgin, in a little town called Bethlehem. This baby, Jesus, was (and is) the One and Only Son of God. And because he was born, the world has never been the same.

Praise God!

This Christmas, let us find new ways to tell the old story that is still true!

*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)*

Merry Christmas!

*With love in Christ,*

*Sharon*