

Getting Christmas right

The Why of Christmas

Buyers remorse - you need something, you buy it, you then think about it later but you don't need it



Christmas remorse - wanted to spend more time with God, family and friends. Wanted to help someone in need - they didn't end up doing what they wanted to do so they say next year I will get it right.

So we are going to spend the next 3 weeks preparing for this Christmas so that we won't have Christmas remorse and you can say I got this Christmas right!

What we say at the end of this Christmas will be determined by what we focus on in the beginning.

At the end of this Christmas you describe it like a car crash - don't remember it, lots of screaming, facing the wrong way, in the end your body was thrown clear away.

Or if you can say I felt loved, loved others and was happy with my Christmas - you got the focus right at the start.

Let's set our focus ready for Christmas

Luke 2:4-18

"So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem and Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendent of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancé, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth, and she gave birth to a son, her firstborn.

"She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel. There were sheep-herders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified.

"The angel said, 'Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide. A Savior has just been born in David's town—a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for—a baby wrapped in a blanket, lying in a manger.' At once the angel was joined by a huge, angelic choir singing God's praises, 'Glory to God in the heavenly highest. Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.'

"As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherders talked it over. 'Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.' They left running. They found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child.

"All who heard the shepherders were impressed. Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherders returned and they let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they had been told."

Reading the Christmas story once or twice a week will help us get our focus right leading up to Christmas.

Our memory aides

1. Nativity Scene

You see all the Christmas decorations and you think, 'that would cost heaps, who has the time to put this thing up, where do they store it all' but when you see the nativity scene remember to say "that actually happened and it happened for me"

It can get so easily bundled into the fairytale of Christmas and forgotten about.

Jesus took human form and did it for me

2. Christmas Card

Facts of life about Christmas card sending

Through out the year people think about and evaluate their relationships and friendships who have impacted their lives throughout the year, who they will put on their friendship list and put deep thoughts onto a card.

Once you have read the card hold the card and say "when I open my heart to Jesus Christ I am on God's friendship list" God is a faultless friend, and the best friend you could ever have. God says friends come along side friends when the going gets tough.

3. Christmas Present

At this time of year people are running around getting people gifts. People who love give
Before you open it remember love motivates giving

"If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer. "But our greatest need was for forgiveness. So God sent a Savior."

Ephesians 2 greatest need was salvation

Admit, confess and reach out to accept it
