

CHRISTMAS 2016

As you may know, there is a major effort to take Jesus Christ out of Christmas. In Texas, a teacher had to remove a Charlie Brown Christmas poster because it had a Bible verse from Isaiah that mentioned the name of Christ. Actually this effort is not new, it has just been intensified.

There has always been a subtle attempt to move the Christmas concept away from God's gift to our gifts. One businessman was saying to his employees that he thought this could be the greatest Christmas ever and one employee said I thought the first one was.

Some always try to get the focus away from God to some pseudo deity who knows when you are naughty or nice. Many would just as soon you focus your attention on Frosty the Snowman, not a babe in Bethlehem.

Now some stores are not allowing their people to say, "Merry Christmas," because the name Christ may offend some people. You may wish people happy holidays, but you cannot wish them Merry Christmas. I have been specifically saying Merry Christmas to people and only about 50% say it back. Mary had some gifts and said Merry Christmas and the woman refused to say it so she said I won't spend one dime in your store and she walked out.

In some places, you may display a large Christmas tree, but you may not call it a Christmas tree, but a Holiday Tree. I have also heard that some of the colors such as red and green are being protested against on Christmas cookies at school because they are somehow connected to Christmas. In some places, you may display a large Candy Cane, but cannot display a Nativity scene. In fact, in Boca Raton, Florida there is a nativity scene that is displayed and 20 yards from it is a display promoting Satan worship.

You may curse Jesus Christ's name at Christmas time, but you cannot honor and worship His name at Christmas time. My brother told me a story of a man in his church who helped a woman find her car at a mall and when he got done he said to her "Merry Christmas" and she said "Happy Holidays." He kept saying Merry Christmas and she kept repeating "Happy Holidays" and finally he said, lady, without Christ there is no holiday.

All of this stuff is designed to take Jesus Christ out of Christmas. To dismiss Him, to disregard Him. So let's play along for a few minutes. Let's back up time and let's remove Jesus Christ not only from Christmas, let's remove Him from ever coming to this world. Let us take Him not only out of the Holidays, let's leave Him in heaven and say He never came to this earth. What would the results of that be? What are the ramifications of a world to which Jesus Christ never came?

Based on direct statements of Scripture as to why Jesus Christ came to this earth—there are six theoretical implications of things that would not be if Jesus Christ had not come to this earth:

THEORETICAL IMPLICATION #1 – If Jesus Christ were not born into this world, there is no possibility of any person having eternal life through Him. John 10:10a

Obviously, if Jesus never came to this earth, then the possibility of believing on Him and His finished work on Calvary for salvation is a mute point, because He never came here to do the work on Calvary. **If you take Him out of Christmas, you take Him off the cross.**

When Jesus Christ was here on earth, He gave us many statements as to why He came and one of those statements occurs in John 10:10. He said, “I came that they might have life.” If He never came, then we cannot have life through Him. If one of the reasons for His coming to this world was to offer life to sinful people, then logically if He doesn’t come to this earth He cannot offer this. If we take Jesus Christ out of Christmas, we have major theological problems, because we cannot find eternal life in Him.

Theologically this has far-reaching ramifications if Christ did not come to this earth. Let me give you five major theological ramifications in taking Jesus Christ out of Christmas.

Theological Ramification #1 - If Christ were not born, there is no justification in Him.

Justification is a forensic, judicial act of God that takes place at God’s throne in which a sinner is declared righteous from their legal sin problem. **In justification man is not made righteous, he is declared righteous.** As John Calvin said, justification is the gratuitous imputation of righteousness before the tribunal of God (*James*, p. 315). Of course the theme of justification by faith alone was the heart cry of the reformation. When one is considered to be guilty of a crime, he must have his day in court.

We have a big legal sin problem against us. We were declared guilty in Adam (Rom. 5:12). We are declared guilty by the God’s law (Rom. 5:13). We are declared sinful and guilty by God’s Word (Rom. 3:19-20, 23). We are declared guilty by an inherited sin nature which we still have. **The question is this—how do we get a Holy God to declare that we are righteous when we have this big sin problem?** According to Romans 5:9, the only way to be declared righteous is by Christ’s blood (Rom. 5:9). However, if we take Christ out of Christmas, then He doesn’t come to this earth to shed His blood, which means we cannot be judicially declared righteous by God because of Christ’s shed blood (Rom. 5:9).

What this ultimately means is we are going to have to do something to get Almighty God to judicially declare us righteous. Since He is a God who cannot lie, it will be impossible for us to convince Him that He should declare us righteous. Furthermore, we have a huge problem here. We may do some horizontal good to others socially, but the problem here is we must do something that is so vertically good that God will declare us righteous. The problem lies in three damning realities:

(Reality #1) - Scripture says we cannot be justified by our works—Rom. 3:28.

Spurgeon preached a sermon one time on justification and a man came to him and said—I do not think God will forgive me unless I do something to deserve it. Spurgeon said, “I’ll tell you sir, if you bring any of your deserving’s, you shall never have God’s forgiveness. God gives away His justification freely; and if you bring anything to pay for it, He will throw it in your face and will not give His justification to you.”

(Reality #2) - Scripture says we cannot be justified by keeping the O.T. law—Gal. 2:16
“by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.”

(Reality #3) - Scripture says we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ—Rom. 3:26-28.
God is just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

If Jesus Christ is not born into this world, we have no hope for justification. We will all get what we legally deserve hell.

Theological Ramification #2 - If Christ were not born, there is no propitiation in Him.

If you take Christ out of Christmas, you can have a “White Christmas” but you cannot have your sins washed whiter than snow.

I John 2:2 says that Jesus Christ, “Himself is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” **If we take Him out of Christmas, He is not our propitiation. What that means is there is no appeasing or pacifying the wrath of God through Christ.** What that means to us is that we are going to have to try and appease God’s violated righteousness and wrath ourselves. We are going to have to take God’s wrath on us because Christ never came here to take it on Him. If Christ is not born into this world, we must come up with some propitiatory means of appeasing the wrath of God and of appeasing the violated righteousness of God. What can we do? Where can we turn? What hope do we have? **Without Christ, we have no hope at all.**

Theological Ramification #3 - If Christ were not born, there is no sanctification in Him.

There are three types of sanctification—**Positional** at moment of Justification we are set apart as a child of God; **Progressive**—as we yield to the Holy Spirit we progress in our spirituality; **Ultimate**—we will one day be set apart in eternity with God forever. Now all of this sanctification business is contingent upon Jesus Christ coming to this world. If Christ did not come into this world, we cannot be set apart unto God positionally, progressively or ultimately. Somehow we are going to have to come up with a plan to convince God to say we are His holy people who deserve to be set apart as His people Forever. What is our plan? What are we to do?

Theological Ramification #4 - If Christ were not born, there is no redemption in Him.

Our sins have not been paid for by Christ. What this means is that if Christ did not come to this earth, we are going to have to come up with some way to pay for our sins ourselves. We will have to come up with some payment plan to God that is at such an acceptable level to God to the point that He will say we are free from our sin. This problem is huge because it is further complicated by direct statements in Scripture that say:

- 1) We cannot redeem ourselves with money—I Pet. 1:18
- 2) We cannot redeem ourselves by works—Rom. 3:24, 28
- 3) We cannot redeem ourselves by keeping the law—Gal. 3:13; 4:5

What are we to do? Money will not redeem us. Works will not redeem us. Keeping the Law will not redeem us. God will not accept any of this as a payment for sin. Our sincerity or our religion will not redeem us. What are we going to do? If Jesus Christ did not come to this earth—then there is no redemption in Him and there is nothing we can do to buy ourselves out of our sin. There is nothing we can do to buy heaven.

Theological Ramification #5 - If Christ were not born, there is no reconciliation in Him.

If Christ does not come to this world, we cannot be reconciled to God through Him. Our relationship with God has not been reconciled. I read an account of a man who was sent out one cold wintery night to repair an electric cable so that power could continue to flow to the homes. The repairman completed his task, but in the process he was killed. His body was found frozen and his stiffened hands were holding the broken ends together, reconciling the power.

Reconciliation means that there is a change in our relationship with God from hostility to harmony. We have been broken off in our relationship with God and Christ reconciles the relationship. However, if He never came to this earth, there is no reconciliation through Him.

According to Romans 5:10—we are enemies of God until we are reconciled to God.

According to II Corinthians 5:18-21—the only way to be reconciled to God is through faith in Jesus Christ. This is the only way to having our broken relationship with God fixed. Now if Jesus Christ did not come into this world—we are enemies of God and somehow we need to fix this relationship ourselves.

If Jesus Christ did not come to this world, the only chance we have at eternal life is to rely on ourselves. To go to live with God in His heaven means we have to be as holy and pure and as righteous as God. We must be able to stand before God on our own and say I have never once sinned. I have never once broken Your law. I have never offended You in any way. I have never done one thing or said one thing or thought one thing that has been out of line with Your purity and Your righteousness. If Jesus Christ did not come to this earth, we must stand on our own before God and tell Almighty God that we are just as good and as holy as He is. The problem is we know we aren't. We would be standing before Him and we know His record can prove we have sinned against Him a thousand times.

We are going to have to invent something that God will approve to make us acceptable in His sight and the truth is—there is nothing we can invent that He will accept as payment for our sins. Without Christ coming to this world, we have no hope.

If Jesus Christ were not born into this world then there is no possibility ever having eternal life through Him, which means we have no possibility of having eternal life. Because we all deserve eternal condemnation.

We have sinned time and time again against God. We cannot justify ourselves. We cannot sanctify ourselves. We cannot propitiate ourselves. We cannot redeem ourselves and we cannot reconcile ourselves. Take Jesus Christ out of Christmas and you take yourself right into hell.

THEORETICAL IMPLICATION #2 – If Jesus Christ were not born into this world, there is no possibility of any person having an abundant life.
John 10:10b

Again in John 10:10—Jesus said, “I came that they might have life and might have it abundantly.” The possibility of having an abundant, fulfilled, meaningful life in Christ is not possible if Jesus Christ never was born.

So do the best you can. Struggle through life and try to find meaning. Look every place you can to try to find a little happiness and fulfillment. Give it your best shot to try and find purpose to your life. Be like Solomon and try to find a meaningful life under the sun. Focus on your career. Focus on pleasure. Focus on education. Focus on a relationship. Focus on material things. None of these things will ultimately make you happy or fulfilled and none of them will really direct you to your real purpose in life; but if Christ didn't come to this earth to give you an abundant life, it's the best you can do for yourself.

Pretty soon you'll get tired of yourself. Pretty soon you'll wonder why you were even born. You'll try to fit in the best you can, but you'll die missing an abundant, fulfilled life because Jesus Christ didn't come to the earth to give you that. I can cite one depressing story after another from athletes to movie stars who died totally depressed. I have seen many who try to find meaning and happiness to life apart from Christ and it just doesn't work. I knew a young man who tried to find happiness in a relationship with a girl, when it didn't work, he killed himself. I know of a married man in California who tried to find meaning in his job and when he lost his job, he killed himself. A few years ago there was an article in the paper about a young girl who didn't think she was pretty enough or had accomplished enough, so she killed herself. All of these people lacked meaning and one without Christ lacks it too.

If Jesus Christ didn't come into this world to give meaning and fulfillment to life, you are left to yourself to try and find it and you won't find it. You may not kill yourself, but you'll live your life in an empty vacuum—aimlessly wondering what you are missing.

THEORETICAL IMPLICATION #3 – If Jesus Christ were not born into this world, then there is no possibility of victory over the Devil.
I John 3:8

I John 3:8 says: "...The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil." The Devil is behind all works systems of religion. If Jesus were not born, then you belong to the Devil and you will try and pick a works system that fits you.

Furthermore, if Christ were not born, there is no curtailing of anything the Devil wants to do. In a world without Christ, evil becomes good. Nothing is bad. Lying, Immorality, Stealing, Killing, Raping, Child Molesting, Abortion, Satan worship, Bank Robberies, Drug addiction is all part of the good life. If Christ were not born, you have no good alternatives.

If Jesus were not born, one religion is just as good as another. It doesn't matter if you worship Satan, Frosty the Snowman, or Tinkerbell. If Jesus were not born, it doesn't matter what you sing at Christmas time—Silent Night or Jingle Bells. If Jesus were not born, Satan can have the world and all in it. Greed and Power, Lusts and Loot are the way to go. Without Christ, victory is the Devil's. It is all his and his way is the only way.

THEORETICAL IMPLICATION #4 – If Jesus Christ were not born into this world, then there has been no final and complete sacrifice for sin.
Hebrews 10:3-10

The writer of Hebrews says in Hebrews 10:3-10 that when Jesus Christ would come into the world (10:5), He would offer His own body as a complete and final sacrifice for our sins. **He would finish the sin issue once for all (Heb. 10:10)**. There would never need to be any more blood sacrifices made for sin.

If Jesus Christ did not come to this earth—none of this has happened. There has not been any complete and final and acceptable sacrifice for sin. What are we going to do? According to Hebrews 10:4—"it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away our sins." According to John 1:29, it is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world; but since He didn't come here, He didn't do that.

What are we going to do? God will not accept any animal blood for our sins and He certainly will not accept our own blood for our sins because we are the one who have sinned with our bodies and blood. What are we to do if Christ didn't come to this earth to make a full and final sacrifice for our sins?

As a minister I don't know what to tell you to do. I cannot offer you any hope. Our sin condemns us before God and we are all heading to condemnation and we have no hope of changing things. We are moving to death because we have sinned and there is nothing we can offer God that will take away our sin. We are miserably lost. We are without hope. We are doomed and we are damned. I cannot say Merry Christmas, for there is nothing merry about anything. We are all just a bunch of "holocaust prisoners" waiting to be taken to the eternal gas chambers and the fires of hell if Jesus were not born.

THEORETICAL IMPLICATION #5 – If Jesus Christ were not born into this world, we have no demonstration of God’s love. John 3:16

One reason why God’s Son was born was because God loved the world and the people in it so much that He would send His own Son to provide an acceptable sacrifice so whoever would believe in Him would have sins forgiven and have eternal life.

If Jesus Christ were not born you have no demonstration of God’s love and our concept of love can be anything you want it to be. We can live with a delusional or emotional concept of love that says God just loves us no matter what we believe or who we believe in. He loves us just the way we are. Why would one believe God loves them? Just because they feel it or want to think it? If Jesus Christ did not come to this earth, we really don’t know what God thinks of us. In fact, it may be He hates us.

THEORETICAL IMPLICATION #6 – If Jesus Christ were not born into this world, we have possible reason to believe He will come back a second time, when He didn’t come the first time.

You and I may as well believe in Santa Claus and elves if Christ did not come to this earth. We don’t know how things are going to end and who will end things. We are left to wonder whether it will all end with a big nuclear bomb or whether the sun will end up burning up the planet. Maybe when you die you’ll come back as a tree or a frog. Maybe when you die that is all there is—you are gone to oblivion.

If Christ didn’t come the first time, there is no need to wonder about the second time.

In fact, if Christ did not come to this earth, there is no value of church, prayer, worship.

What difference does it make if we keep Christ in Christmas? It makes all the difference to this world and to your life.

Tucked away in Luke 2:11 is an angelic statement that is one of the most important statements in all of the Bible: “for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior who is Christ the Lord.”

The reality is Jesus Christ did come into this world and millions upon millions of people know He did and it is this reality that makes it possible for us to have a “Merry Christmas.”