

Why Celebrate Christmas?

Why Do We Need a Savior?

Matthew 22:1-14

December 11, 2022 – Bob Hightchew

Introduction

- There are two camps when it comes to Christmas:
 - Those who believe celebrating is evil or wrong.
 - Those who openly love and celebrate Christmas.
 - In the pagan culture it was a celebration of the Winter Solstice.
 - In 386 A.D. Chrysostom preached that the birth was imperative to remember.
 - December 25th was chosen to replace The Pagan Festival of Saturnalia.
 - Christians redefined some things and added others:
 - Giving gifts – **Luke 1:78-79**
 - The Evergreen Tree – **Isaiah 60:13**
 - Candles – **John 8**
 - Holly – **Matthew 27:29**
 - The Yule Log
 - Mistletoe – **Romans 5:1; Romans 8:1**
 - Please do not miss the Spiritual meaning of Christmas:
 - Because it replaced a pagan holiday.
 - Because it has become commercialized.
-

1. What is Hell?

- a. It is a place of eternal punishment.
- b. **1st Corinthians 2:9**
- c. We can never fully understand how bad Hell is. But the very thought of someone going there should bother us deeply.
- d. If Hell is not real, then we do not need a Savior. But if you believe Jesus and His Word, then Hell is real.
- e. What does the Bible say about Hell? Jack Cottrell lays out the images the Bible gives in his book, *The Faith Once for All*.
 - i. A Garbage Dump – **2nd Kings 16; Jeremiah 7 and 19**
 - ii. Unending Fire – **Mark 9:43; Malachi 4:1-3; Hebrews 12:29**
 - iii. Outer Darkness – **Matthew 8, 22, 25; 2nd Peter 2:17; Exodus 10:21-23**
 - iv. Separation from God – **Matthew 7:23; Luke 13; 1st Thessalonians 1:9**
 - v. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth – **Matthew 13:50**
 - vi. Unending Torment – **Jude 1:7**
 - vii. Fire prepared for Satan and his angels – **Matthew 25:41**
 - viii. Fiery lake of burning sulfur – **Revelation 19:20**
 - ix. Gloomy imprisonment – **2nd Peter 2:4**
 - x. The second death – **Revelation 20**

- f. **Isaiah 55:8-9**
- g. How long does a person remain in Hell?

2. Why Should I Believe in Hell?

- a. There are several basic reasons why you should consider the Truth of Hell:
 - i. The Bible – **Revelation 20:11-30**
 - ii. Jesus – **Matthew 25:31-46**
 - iii. Humans are Morally Responsible – **Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23**
 - iv. The Reality of Hell – **Matthew 16**
 - v. Rejecting God and His Love – **Romans 1:18-32**

3. Why Do I Need a Savior?

- a. **Genesis 2:16**
- b. **Genesis 3:6**
- c. **Romans 3:23**
- d. **Romans 6:23**
- e. The Bible says:
 - i. The Location of Hell is reached by death.
 - ii. The Conditions of Hell are eternal suffering.
 - iii. The Occupants of Hell are due to sin.
- f. **John 14:1-6**
- g. **John 3:16**
- h. **Isaiah 53:3-4**
- i. **2nd Corinthians 9:15**
- j. **Romans 8:1**