

**The Family Prayer Center
615 Nassau Street
Immokalee, Fl. 34142**

No Christmas Without Christ – December 2022 Letter

Dear Friend,

In the early 70s, the now deceased and very secular John Lennon wrote a song that expressed his views of Christmas. The song's title was "Happy Christmas (War is Over)" with the word "Christ" X-d out of Christmas. The song is also often referred to as "So This is Christmas." It has a catchy tune, and you might easily find yourself humming the melody after hearing it on a Christmas playlist. Here are some of the lyrics to that song:

So this is Christmas
And what have you done
Another year over
And a new one just begun
And so this is Christmas
I hope you have fun
The near and the dear ones
The old and the young

A very Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one
Without any fear

And so this is Christmas (war is over)
For weak and for strong (if you want it)
For rich and the poor ones (war is over)
The war is so long (now)
And so happy Christmas (war is over)
For black and for white (if you want it)
For yellow and red ones (war is over)
Let's stop all the fight (now)

For John Lennon in 1971, this was a holiday protest song against the war in Vietnam. Billboards in 12 major cities posted the black and white slogan "WAR IS OVER! If you want it." For John Lennon who did not know Christ, peace on the planet started with a choice. The choice was to choose peace rather than war, but the fallacy in his choice started in the very title of the song – "Happy Xmas (War is Over)."

You cannot X Christ out of Christmas. There is no solution for humanity except Christ. Jesus is the centerpiece of every solution on planet Earth. Some might say that his choice in the title

selection was just a way of saving letters in a long title, but it was far deeper than that. It was his way of leaving Christ out of the expression, but still wishing goodwill towards his fellow man.

Sad to say, this was not just John Lennon's dilemma, but it is the entire dilemma of the whole fallen human race. Humanity wants to try and fix itself without having to bow the knee of the heart to a Savior who can only come from God. There is no Christmas or goodwill towards men without the Christ.

"Jesus is the reason for the season" is the ultimate understatement! I don't have an exception with humming or singing a Christmas song that has been written by a misguided secular artist as long as the lyrics are acceptable, because I have the answer for man's dilemma living on the inside of me. But here is where the solution for mankind begins.

Luk 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Luk 2:9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Luk 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luk 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luk 2:12 And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Luk 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Luk 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luk 2:15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Luk 2:16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Luk 2:17 And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

Luk 2:18 And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Luk 2:19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart.

Luk 2:20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

I can't say for sure that there was an actual melody that went along with the angels' announcement to the shepherds of Christ's birth, but I really like to think so. I like to think that the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir could not even compare to the harmony and the magnitude of sound that came from that heavenly choir.

Can you imagine the one angel speaking to the shepherds, saying, "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people?" And then all of the sudden, there is a multitude of backup singers (angels) standing behind that single angel, singing, "Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace, goodwill to men.” It says in verse nine that when the first angel appeared, that “the glory of the Lord shown around about them.” I like to think that the spotlight of Heaven shown center stage on the announcement of the Son of God. No Broadway production could compare to what these shepherds were watching. And of course, all of the added parts are just my rendition, but it sure sounds good! ☺

We do know this for certain, that the angels’ announcement was God’s will for humanity through Christ, His son. God’s will is peace and goodwill towards men, but it starts only at the salvation of each individual that receives the gospel message as their personal peace. There will never be universal peace on this planet until Christ returns for His Church. The only peace is the personal peace that comes to each individual through the born-again experience. Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid (John 14:27).”

Man, at best, can only improve the chaos. He can never eliminate it. Governments are continually maneuvering for the power between parties, believing that they have the solution to mankind’s dilemma. Even more sad is the backslidden church of Christ. The WOKE CHURCH that believes that concessions with the world will make the gospel message more appealing and bring a greater harvest is completely deceived. Any concession with the world destroys the power of the Gospel.

The power of the Gospel message must always begin with humanity’s Savior, born of a virgin, and laid in a manger. God’s answer for humanity’s redemption was for one member of the Godhead to enter the portal of humanity by actually becoming a man, and men are born as babies, not full grown. But this baby is no longer a baby in a manger! This baby is the risen from the dead, the Lord of Heaven. This baby is the sinless, spotless, righteous, omnipotent in power, and seated next to the Father, Lamb of God!

The church that is going into Revival must dismiss all hope of humanity’s peace ever coming through politics, governments, or any human programs. It must resolve that only through a Revival of the power of the Kingdom of God will humanity be saved. There is no hope for America or the world except through this Gospel. We cannot X Christ out of Christmas, or any time for that matter.

Please enjoy every part of your Christmas season. Enjoy every gift you buy, every gift you receive, every card you send, and every card you receive. Enjoy the punch, the eggnog, and all the Christmas carols. Enjoy every Christmas tree and every lit yard or shopping mall. Enjoy every Christmas song on the radio or at church. Enjoy your friends and family. But please, understand that if none of these things are available to you, you are not alone. And understand that your peace does not rest on anything that makes up traditional Christmas. Our peace and goodwill have come directly to us from Heaven through our relationship with Jesus the Christ.

Candy and I love and appreciate you so much. With all our hearts, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed and Happy New Year!

I will see you in the Revival! Blessings, Pastor Bronc