

FINDING CHRIST

IN TODAY'S

Christmas



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Where is Christ in the symbols of Christmas?

*We put up the tree,
decorate, bake, shop, and
celebrate. But have you
asked yourself . . . Where is
Christ in all of the
festivities?*





The other day, my son started asking me about the symbols of Christmas. He wanted to know why we decorate, why we put up a tree, and why this time of year just "feels so happy."

As a family, we don't do the "Santa Claus" thing. We have always kept Christ as the center of Christmas. But when my son asked this question, I immediately stopped and realized I hadn't done an adequate job teaching him to find Christ in today's Christmas.

I had shown him that Christmas was about Christ's birth and not Santa, but I hadn't taught him to find Christ in the symbols.

Jesus spoke in parables and used pictures to tell stories. Parables are earthly stories with a heavenly meaning. ([Source](#)) If Jesus can find divine truth in nets, sparrows, lilies, pearls, and seeds, we can also see divine truth in an ornament, a tree, a candy cane, or a gift.

Jeremiah 29:13 says, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." This Christmas, let us seek Him in all the ways we celebrate. I pray your heart is open to "Find Christ in Today's Christmas."

The Christmas Tree

Nowhere do the Scriptures speak about putting up and decorating a Christmas tree. So don't worry! I am not going to be misinterpreting the Scriptures. Instead, let us use the Christmas tree as a symbol that points to Christ.

In the Bible, the color green represents everlasting life. We usually put evergreen trees in our homes. These trees will be forever green. Their leaves will not wilt and die.

Jesus came to this earth, humbled Himself as a baby, died on a cross, and rose again all to give us the gift of ETERNAL LIFE. John 3:16 says, "For God SO loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."



Whoever believes has eternal life. Whoever believes is evergreen, if you will. Jesus is our way, our truth, and our everlasting life. If we believe and receive Him as our Lord and Savior, "we shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper." (Psalm 1:1-3)

Whenever I see my Christmas tree, it reminds me of the eternal life we have in Christ Jesus. It reminds me that following Him leads me to be a like a tree, planted in His word, bringing forth fruit, not dying, but prospering!

Our Christmas tree reminds me of the tree Christ hung on to give me that eternal life. When I see my tree all glittered in gold, I see Christ's finished work. An empty tree, an empty cross, and salvation for us all. That is something to rejoice about!

Jesus entered into a dangerous world. Within the first few years of His life, King Herod wanted Him dead. His parents had to run with their precious boy to escape the evil of a treacherous king.

When we see a sweet and serene Nativity, remember that is a mere snapshot . . . A small moment in reality.

We see our Nativity sets with Mary, Joseph, the donkey, an angel perhaps, and the shepherds all staring at the manger with the newborn King. But for a moment, take away Mary and Joseph. Take away the shepherds, the animals, and the angel. Take away the baby, and what do you have left? A manger and swaddling clothes. (Luke 2:7)

A manger was a feeding trough for animals and was often made out of rock.

When Herod's soldiers came searching for the babe in Bethlehem, all they found was an empty rock and a swaddling cloth.

Fast forward thirty-three years and the rock and the cloth find us again, but this time at Jesus' tomb. The manger and the swaddling cloth were a prophetic picture of the tomb and the cloth

Nicodemus used to wrap the Lord's body. (John 19:38-42)

Jesus came to die, but not until the appointed time. The circumstances surrounding His birth foreshadowed those surrounding His death.

When you see the Nativity, remember it is more than a sweet symbol. It is a picture of God in the flesh willingly leaving Heaven's throne to die for you and me.

Death could not hold Him down in the manger, and death could not hold Him down in the tomb. He rose again to give us eternal life. He rose again so that we can live forever with Him.

The Nativity Set





Saint Nicholas

Growing up, we never did the "Santa Claus" thing. My parents wanted to keep Christ the center of our Christmas, and it's something I passed onto my son. While we don't don't celebrate Santa with his reindeer, we do learn about Nikolaos of Myra, also known as Saint Nicholas.

In 325, Constantine 1 organized the first council of Nicea. The council's main accomplishment was settling the argument that once and for all Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Nicholas was there. He was a devout Christian and a defender of the faith.

Nicholas didn't take kindly to people reducing Christ to a mere man. He put heretics to shame by defending the fact that Jesus was the Son of God. Nicholas didn't go soft on truth to be politically correct. He was not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:16)

Nicholas had received a large sum of money after his parent's death and used that money to bless children and the poor. When society reduces Nicholas to a jolly, fat man in a beard, it significantly undermines who he was. He was a defender of the faith. He was strong. He was a devout follower of Jesus, and he gave above and beyond.

May we learn from the example of Nikolaos of Myra, and may we teach others who he really was. I pray that we can have the strength and courage to defend the Gospel of Jesus whether it is politically correct or not.



Gifts and Presents

When it comes to giving gifts, we often think of the Wise Men who brought gifts to Jesus. But for me, when I think of gifts and presents, Jesus and His gift of salvation is the greatest gift we could possibly receive.

During this season, we put our presents underneath the Christmas trees until Christmas morning. But what if that tradition pointed us to the Word. Many gifts were given under trees throughout the Word.

In Genesis 6:14, Gopher Wood from cypress or cedar trees was used to make the ark giving all inside the gift of salvation.

In Genesis 18:1, Abraham was given the gift of a son under the Oaks of Mamre.

In 1 Kings 5:5-6, Solomon used the Cedars of Lebanon as building materials to God's Temple giving the gift of a house of worship to the Lord and His people.

Our Salvation, our greatest gift, was given to us on Calvary's Tree.

When we see the gifts around the tree, let us be reminded of all of the times in Scriptures where God used trees to teach us divine truth. And more importantly, let us be reminded of our greatest gift, Jesus, who by hanging on a tree, gave us the gift of salvation.



The Lights and The Star

John 8:12 says, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." When we look at our Christmas lights, we are reminded that Jesus is the light of the world. He is the light that can never dim. It is His light that illuminates our way and makes us see more clearly. (Psalm 119:105)

The lights also remind us that as He is, so we should be. Matthew 5:14-18 tells us that we are the light of the world. We have a responsibility to give the greatest gift, Jesus, to a world engulfed in darkness. We are to shine our light; the light of Jesus, to all who see us.

The star on the top of our tree points to the Wise Men who followed the star to Bethlehem. It is a reminder that we should be as the star pointing others to Jesus.

What a precious gift to give another; the love of Jesus Christ and the promise of salvation to all who believe. Let the lights of Christmas remind us to be light in a world that so desperately needs the Light of the World.

The Poinsettia Plant

The poinsettia is such a beautiful Christmas symbol pointing us to Jesus. The shape of the plant's flower and leaves resemble the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Magi to the Christ Child. It also reminds us that Jesus is our bright and morning star. (Revelation 22:16)

The red color reminds us of Christ's Blood, shed for our salvation. Christmas is a time to celebrate His birth, but if He didn't go to Calvary's cross, we could not be saved. The red color is a reminder of His willingness to die so that we could live.



Some poinsettias have white leaves, which remind us of Christ's purity. 2 Corinthians. 5:21 says, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." What a gift we have in Jesus! What a reminder that as HE is so should we be.

The color green in the Bible symbolizes eternal life. Therefore, green leaves symbolize eternal life in Christ Jesus. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"

Some poinsettia plants are pink! Bible the color pink often represents compassion. A mix of red and white, how much more compassionate than the son of God, coming in all purity of the Father, and shedding His blood for us? That's compassion! And a reminder that we must be like Him and show love to others; even if they don't deserve it.

The Candy Cane



The candy cane is in the shape of a "J". When we see this yummy Christmas treat, let us be reminded of Jesus. Let His name always be on your lips.

The red stripes represent the blood that was spilled on Calvary's cross to save us from our sins. Only His dying could have given us the ability to live with Him forever.

The white stripes represent the purity of Christ. It is also a reminder that when we confess our sins, He washes us whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:7)

Even the peppermint flavor can remind us of the Scriptures and our Heavenly Father. Hyssop is an herb that is used throughout the Scriptures as a purifying agent. The taste is often described as a strong minty flavor. In Psalm 51:7, David says, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

Even the simplicity of a candy cane can point us to Jesus and His word if we look intently for Him in all things.

Parties and Festivities

In Luke 14:15-24, Jesus tells the parable of The Great Feast. In the parable, Jesus tells the story of the master who invited many to his feast. But one by one, those invited had an excuse as to why they couldn't come. Instead of harping on those who rejected the invitation, the master invited the poor, lame, sick, and destitute to The Great Feast and they willingly came.

This holiday season, there will be parties, cookie swaps, and get-togethers, but let us not forget about the feast that the Lord set out for us. He has invited us to His table to feast on His goodness and greatness. At His table are riches. At His table is life. At His table is love. At His table; in His Word; is all that we could ever need.

We have been given an invitation this season, and beyond to come to the most fabulous party one could wish for. I pray that we don't reject the invitation.

At our holiday parties, tell others about the Master and the Great Feast He has prepared for us. Remember to pull up a chair at His table, and feast on all He has offered to you.



An Invitation

Standing before you this Holiday Season is the choice to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior He loves you so much. HE LOVES YOU.

There is nothing you've done that is beyond His reach. There is nothing you've said or thought about that He doesn't see and know. There is nothing in your past that would disqualify you from a seat at the Master's Table.

Will you say yes to Him today?

If you do not know the Lord Jesus as your personal Savior, this is for you.

If you asked Him into your life as a child but walked away from Him as an adult, this is for you.

If you know Him, but have rejected a seat at His table because of the busyness of life, this is for you.

This season, ask Him into your life. Make Him your all-in-all. There is a seat at His table and you are invited. Will you accept the invitation?

If your answer is yes, pray these words out loud . . .

God, I know that I am a sinner. I know that I deserve the consequences of my sin. However, I believe that you died on the cross and rose again to save me from the consequences of my sin. You became sin for me. I am trusting in Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I believe that His death and resurrection provided for my forgiveness. I pray that you would forgive me of all of my sins. Jesus, I pray that you would cleanse my life, remove my past, and give me hope for a future. Thank you, Lord, for saving me and forgiving me! Amen!

That's it! Welcome to the family! You have just received and/or rededicated your life to Jesus Christ. NOW, WHAT?





First, make sure you begin reading the Word. If you don't have a Bible, there are a ton of free apps that have the whole Bible for you. Start in the Psalms or 1 John.

Next, find a church family that you can join. Look online if you can't find one in your neighborhood. Talk to a co-worker, friend, or relative that knows Jesus and tell them the magnificent news that you are part of the family!

Email me if you'd like and we can talk, chat, and I can answer any questions you have. thefelicitybee@gmail.com

But remember, you were just given the greatest gift of eternal life. You just received the greatest Christmas gift you could possibly receive. You just accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior!

**WELCOME TO
THE FEAST!**

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... is a Christian writer, author, playwright and Entrepreneur. She writes at **THE FELICITY BEE** where you can find encouragement, faith, and a dose of sparkle in the Light of the Lord.

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