

You Can't Kill Christmas

Galatians 4:4

My father became a preacher when I was about eight years old. He wasn't a high school graduate, but he applied himself and became quite successful as a pastor. We both entered college the same day when I was eighteen. But during his growth as a minister he read a book by a man named Heslep (perhaps Hislep) in which he showed how Christmas was an ancient Babylonian festival adopted by the Constantine church. So for at least a couple of years we had no Christmas tree. I just read a letter to the Editor of the Contra Costa Times (an eastern area of the San Francisco Bay area) rehearsing that same idea. Then there was another letter explaining that it was really based on the worship of Solstice celebrating the return of the sun (SUN). There was such raucous revelry in Colonial America at Christmas time that the Puritan church banned Christmas. Even today many ministers decry the commercialization and secularism of Christmas.

My dear mother and her children began to chip away at my father's stand on Christmas. God had a sense of humor he was called from Arkansas to pastor a church in Colorado. This new church had a tradition of having a Christmas program and at the end a tall bulging Santa Claus would enter the auditorium and give each person a sack of candy

Somehow the Christian church has been able to transcend the pagan and transform symbols so that they point to the God who invaded history in the person of Jesus Christ.

I would like to make this assertion: "You can't kill Christmas" many have tried, but it withstands the assault. Herod tried to snuff out the young child Jesus, but he couldn't. You may want to say, let us not have Christmas this year. I believe there will be a lot of people tomorrow that will sigh and say, I'll be glad when Christmas is over and I can get back into my routine. Since last Christmas there may have been a death of a loved one. Perhaps a divorce or distance separating relatives keeps the family from being together. So the Christmas spirit is just barely breathing in some places. Well, Christmas may be abused, damaged, misunderstood, but it will not be extinguished.

Because THE ESSENCE OF CHRISTmas IS THAT IT IS A GOD THING. Gal. 4:4

- It is about a living God.
- It is about a caring God.
- It is about an active God.
- It is about a God that came down and looked people in the eye.
- It is about a God who stoop down and talked to little children.
- It is about a God who touched eyes that had never seen.

- It is about a God who lifted the crippled and they walk, ran and danced.
- It is about a God who proved his love for you and me by taking the punishment that we deserved and paying the complete price for breaking Holy Law.
- It is about a God who absorbed all the evil treatment of the Devil and religious leaders.
- It is about a God who was placed in a tomb, but who burst forth on the third day and who was seen of over a half thousand people.
- It is about a God who ascended.
- It is about a God who changes lives.
- It is about a God who comes into our lives and gives us power to cope.
- It is about a God who gives songs in the night.
- It is about a God that plants faith in our heart.
- It is about a God who takes everything that comes into our life and makes it work for our benefit.
- It is about a God who perpetuates hope in His children that someday He will return not as a baby, but as the CEO OF THE UNIVERSE.
- THE ONE WHO'S NAME IS ABOVE EVERY NAME.
- When God sent forth his son, it became an everlasting reality.

You can't defeat Christmas!

At this point I would read a letter I received from a lady who heard me on the radio and sent me her story how that she was on the verge of having no food at Christmas and certainly on gifts for the children. But God intervened in a miraculous way. In your research maybe seven years ago in the Reader's digest there is a heart touching story of a family in Kansas City who lives were greatly touched at Christmas time. I could have read a number of stories that have been written about how that Christmas has a renewing aspect Hearts continue to be drawn to its message. "In the fullness of time God sent forth his son." He keeps on sending his son to those who will open their life to him.