

CHRISTMAS . . . A TIME FOR REFLECTION



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by [Dave Butts](#)

I admit it! I love Christmas. Oh, I get turned off by all the commercialization and secularization like many of you. But it's **our** holiday! By our, I mean the Church. And I'm not letting other people ruin **our** holiday. It's when followers of Jesus celebrate the incarnation. It's that time of awe when we realize that the Creator-God took on human flesh and was born as a helpless babe. It's the celebration of the event that changed planet earth forever.

I love the way the Church through the years developed Christmas as a season and not just a day. The lighting of advent candles builds a sense of anticipation for the coming of the Christ child. Then the day itself . . . ah, Christmas Day! Feasting, family, worship, singing, and giving of gifts . . . all can be done in a way that points to the great Gift given that Day to mankind.

Don't take the tree down on the 26th. These days after Christmas can be glorious days of reflection about the meaning of the Incarnation. I encourage you to spend time in prayer, meditating on the wonder of the Incarnation. Make them days of preparation for the New Year ahead—seek God as to His purposes for you in the new year. Consider committing to a deeper level of prayer this coming year. Perhaps we can learn from the 12 Days of Christmas song and continue to make these days a time of giving, if not of gifts, of our time to those who need the blessing of Christ we carry within us.

No Scrooges in my house! Merry Christmas, and may God bless us every one!

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PRAYING GOD'S
PURPOSES IN
TROUBLED TIMES





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