

Christmas 2019

It's the most wonderful time of the year
With the kids jingle belling
And everyone telling you be of good cheer
It's the most wonderful time of the year

Is it really is this actually true. I know all the commercial tell us this and movies but is this people real experience of Christmas. Are people really happier at this time of year? I have heard that many people are actually depressed and dread the coming of Christmas. They definitely dread their credit card bills after Christmas. I don't think we can say that this is the most wonderful time of the year but for sure we can say it is the most anticipated time of the year. I am not saying this to be a grinch that steals your Christmas I think our failed expectation do that. I would like to talk about what our expectations are and where they go wrong. First I would like to say that the media actually gives us a clue of where are expectation lies. In looking at movies of Christmas and commercials of Christmas and being a veteran of over forty Christmas I would like to address some of the themes of our expectation and see if we are right. I believe that all these things are like most things in the media they are sort of right but have missed the fullness of the meaning. The first theme and expectation we have is around family that being home for Christmas and being with family is going to be amazing and life giving. There will be peace this Christmas and we wont be fighting but enjoying each other company. So what happens if your family is estranged or you are divorced and you have to share your family or you don't have family or one of your family died at Christmas. If Christmas is only about family many people are going to have a bad Christmas depressed Christmas. But I agree that Christmas is about a family.

The second theme is gift giving getting that perfect gift the right toy the right bottle of the most popular alcohol. Yes that is happiness you see it in all the commercials. So why doesn't getting the prefect gift work? The commercial and movies show us this. I call this a world Ponzi scam. Do you know what a Ponzi scam is. It works like this you take peoples money and you promise huge interest rates then you redistribute the money you receive so that they think they are get huge interest and they are happy and tell their friends and write testimonials. And then many people give you their money and you walk well in most cases run away rich and hated but at least you are rich. Except in this case they use the media and get people to acted happy at the gift and they don't have to run away after they have taken are money because we are too embarrassed to admit we were scammed and we all got scammed and didn't end up happier for the gift we got. But I do believe that they are right that Christmas is about gifts.

Third theme Finding true love at Christmas time or a romance or a acquaintance or anyone really so that we don't have to be alone. People are vulnerable to romance at Christmas time. I wonder how many of them work out. However I agree that part of our Christmas expectation is about romance.

Fourth a final theme I will address today. That Christmas is a time where we believe we have super powers. We believe we can make people happy that we can make our family get along that we will cook the best meal this year and everyone will be happy and we will receive the praise we deserve for the sacrifices. That we will get the perfect gift and satisfy the our loved ones. I do not think this works because of my veteran year of experience but I still Believe that Christmas is about superpowers.

So I would like to say that for years I have even thought what is the big deal about Christmas I mean it was like 2000 years ago Jesus came great and so what is the big deal now? And because of that thought

and my veteran status of Christmas I lowered my expectations and found I was still unsatisfied. I am not saying Christmas was miserable I but I felt something was missing. Even when I did and help out with dinners for the poor and those who had no place for Christmas it was good but I still felt I was missing something.

This year in my 43 year I saw something that changed my opinion of Christmas and got me excited once again. It was the Scriptures around that coming Messiah. I started for the first time to see why there is anticipation at Christmas. Why because the coming Messiah make wild promises. That is right. He said at my coming the desert will blossom. He said at my coming the lame will leap for joy. At My coming the mute the people who cannot talk will not merely mumble my friend no they will sing the dead will be raised. I God will come and live among you and take your flesh. Then I see what this is an exciting time of the year because all the things we long for in Christmas are to be fulfilled. And what is more exciting this promise is still valid. So not I see that the world got the desire right but it could only offer us a flesh solution that falls short of our amazing expectation. So yes Christmas is about Family and about peace in the Family. But do not worry and do not try to find it in your earthly family find it in God family. You are welcome here. God loves you here you are cherished here not necessary by the broken members of this Family but by God. If you want this come back to your family in the Church go to confession let God love you and heal our brokenness. It is about peace in your soul because you are loved and God is near.

And yes Christmas is about love because God gave us the give of His son in a little baby and you are never alone now. He will always be close. As you draw closer to Christ you will draw close to other who love Him as well.

Yes Christmas is about superpowers and giving up the idea that we have them on a natural plane. God is the superpower in our life and we can put all things in His hand you done have to make Christmas work God does that let Him be God and you be a little Child and enjoy your presents once again.

And yes Christmas is about gifts perfect gives. Gift that satisfy and heal the soul gift that bind up hold up and set us up for real life. Take a moment to look at the desires of your souls right now. What do you really need are you blind deaf wounded addicted weary feel alone overburdened. Now as the Family of God we are going to do something and I want you to join me. Turn to the person next to you. If you somehow got on the end raise your hand I don't want anyone left out. Best Groups of two but three are fine too. As the sons and daughter of God I want you to right now pray for the person in your group that they will receive the give that God want to give them.

O come all ye faithful.