

LIVING WORD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2022

LANGLEY BC



JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Mark your calendars for the upcoming events!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 10
6-9pm

Everyone is invited to celebrate Christmas with LWCC. Bring your friends, family, and some food to share.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP CLASS

December 18
3pm

Join us as we continue to learn how to "Think Like Jesus" Don't miss out!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24
6pm

LWCC will gather with Willoughby Church for a Christmas Eve Service

YOUTH'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 16
7-9pm

Calling all youth, there is a Christmas Party just for you! Invite your friends and enjoy!

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

December 31
5-7pm

Together with Willoughby Church, we will have a community meal and time of worship.

Please contribute as follow (according to last name):

A-H: SALADS

I-P: DESSERTS OR SWEETS

Q-Z: MAIN OR SAVORY DISHES

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BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES IN PREPARING FOR A MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS

BY ELMER CRUZ

Are you ready for Christmas?

How do we really prepare for a meaningful Christmas celebration?

Matthew 22:37-38 – Jesus commanded us to love the Lord with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind. It emphasized the completeness of the kind of love that is called for.

3 Biblical Principles in Preparing for a Meaningful Christmas

1. Prepare our heart – **by making Christ at the center of our heart**

Helen Keller quoted: The only blind person at Christmas time is he who has not Christmas in his heart.

If Christ is not in our heart, our celebration of Christmas is meaningless and empty!

How do we make Christ at the center of our heart?

a. You must be born again and be saved.

John 3:3 – Jesus replied, “I assure you; unless someone is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” New Birth (Regeneration) is a must – this is the work of the Holy Spirit in man’s spiritual birth where the Holy Spirit regenerates a spiritually dead person into a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).

To be saved – we need to repent of our sins and believe in Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Mark 1:14 – “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe** the gospel. The **Gospel** is the **Good News** that God has made a way of salvation through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-8).

Romans 10:9 – “That if you **confess** with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

True and saving faith manifests itself in our obedience to the Words of God.

b. Live a Christ-centered life.

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

The Apostle Paul is challenging us to live a Christ-centered life. A life that has been crucified with Christ – which means our sinful flesh died with Him on the cross and we are now committed to a righteous living. We need to acknowledge Christ as the Lord of our life – He is our priority and in everything that we do, we give Him glory – by living our life by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Let us celebrate this coming Christmas by having our hearts totally surrendered to Him.

2. Prepare our mind – to obey Christ

How do we prepare our mind for Christmas?

What we think of Christ affects our celebration of Christmas. Our view of Christ affects our obedience to Him. If Christ is our Savior and Lord, it should be manifested in our commitment to obey Him. Jesus said, if you love me, you will obey my commands

Romans 12:1-2 “Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”

Christmas is the busiest season of all. People’s mind is pre-occupied with so many things – decorations, gifts, gatherings, parties or charitable projects. Sad to say that our minds are pre-occupied mostly of temporal, material and external things. We need to think of ways on how we can offer or present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. We should not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by renewing our mind to discern and obey the good, pleasing and perfect will of God. The Holy Spirit is transforming us in the likeness of Christ and it starts by renewing our mind.

Christ is looking for mind that is willing to do and obey His will for our lives.

If our mind is focus on obeying Christ, this is the best gift that we can offer to Him this Christmas.

3. Prepare our soul – to worship Christ (Psalm 103:1-2)

Psalm 103: 1-2 “My soul, praise Lord, and all that is within me, praise His holy name. My soul, praise the Lord, and do not forget all His benefits.”

As the song said:” O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord.”

In the first Christmas, the angels, magi and the shepherds worshiped Christ. Imagine the Magi from the east travelled long distance just to pay homage and worship the child Jesus. Imagine the multitude of heavenly host came down from heaven to praise God saying – Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors. Imagine the lowly shepherds who were so excited to spread the good news and hurried off to seek and worship the baby in the manger.

Christmas is all about worshipping Jesus Christ the Lord and King.

Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to express our adoration and highest worship to Jesus Christ who is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is Emmanuel - the infinite God in human flesh, the Messiah who came to save us from all our sins. **He is God in a manger.**

He is the Alpha and Omega, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father and the Prince of Peace. He died and rose again and He is coming back as the King who will reign forever more. This coming Christmas, let us worship and adore Him Christ the Lord. Amen.

4. Application:

Are you ready to celebrate this coming Christmas?

Remember:

The Lord is more interested in the condition of our heart, mind and soul more than anything else. Let us love Him with all our heart, soul and mind and give Him the highest worship this coming Christmas.

If we do these, then our Christmas celebration will truly be a meaningful one.

Have a Joyous Christmas and a Blessed New Year!