

“Putting CHRIST Back in Christmas”

As I was being bombarded with the Transiberian Orchestra’s version of “Carol of the Bells” for the 113th time on Thanksgiving Day (used, incidentally, to underscore a commercial for the “2017 Kia ‘Light Up the Holidays’ Sales Event”), a thought occurred to me: *“Secular society has really done a number on Christmas!”* On a whim, I set out in search of something which might illustrate the extent of the damage.

I discovered a list of what a popular music entity considers to be the “Top 50 Christmas Songs of All Time.” Of those fifty, **only eight** contained elements regarding the birth of Christ. Number one on the list? *“White Christmas,”* by Bing Crosby. The first appearance of a song with any religious overtones is at #20 (*“The First Noel,”* by Andy Williams), a full 13 spots **below** one of the creepier seasonal tunes, *“Baby, It’s Cold Outside.”* *“Joy to the World”* just narrowly made the cut – edging out *“A Marshmallow World”* for the second to last spot.

The fact that Christmas is over-commercialized is not news. But if the original *reason* for the celebration – the birth of Jesus – is to be reclaimed, then that reclamation must start with those who follow Him. To that end, I offer three easy (and fun) suggestions.

#1 – “Wish ‘em Merry Christmas!” Leave your “Happy Holidays” and “Season’s Greetings” at the door! ‘Tis the season to be politically incorrect, and if you ruffle some feathers, then so be it. Besides, anyone writing the date on anything is acknowledging the birth of the Lord. What better time to get His name out there?

#2 – “Watch Your Playlists!” Having a Christmas party? Having friends over for cocoa and cookies? Ditch Nat King Cole for Handel, and set the tone for your gathering! There are lots of great Christmas CDs out there from Christian artists, and sites like Pandora and YouTube will allow you to craft your own soundtracks. Trust me – the world needs less *“Santa Baby,”* and more Baby Jesus.

#3 = “Wisely Shop & Spend!” Does Great Aunt Mildred really *need* the Cheese of the Month Club? Is your dog’s life *truly* incomplete without a flashing set of antlers? I’m not trying to tell you how to spend your money, but rampant consumerism is a device of the world, just another way for the culture to twist the blessed day. It’s a trap Christians should try hard to avoid. It’s not about the bling. It’s about the King!

Did you know that sermons are available online? Check out the church’s website, click on the sermons tab, and pick out the sermon you missed, enjoyed, or want to share!

I wish all of you a peaceful and merry CHRISTmas.

Brother David



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DAVID MAHFOOD, PASTOR

“You are Loved”

Tyland Baptist Church

Tylandbaptist.com



Lee's Music Notes

Before all the hustle and bustle, before the Christmas lights, parades and carols, there was one thing that signified Christmas: the Savior of the world lying in a humble manger. Just as Mary and Joseph gathered in a stable to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Tyland Baptist choir invites you to join with us as we rediscover the true reason to celebrate with "O Holy Night!" This cantata will be presented on December 17, 2017 during the morning worship service. Make your plans now to join in the celebration.

On a Lighter Note

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark." The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you." The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?" "Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said. The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

Children/Youth Christmas Party—Dec 3rd
Christmas Cantata—Dec 17th @ 10:40 a.m.
No Evening Services—Dec 24th & Dec 31st

Sunday:

Prayer Meeting—9:30 a.m.

Sunday School—9:40 a.m.

Morning Worship—10:40 a.m.

Evening Worship—6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Prayer Meeting—6:30 p.m.

RA's, GA's, & Youth—6:30 p.m.

Millennials—8:00 p.m.

As the holidays approach, please remember those in our community that don't have the funds for food, clothing, and who don't have any family. PATH is one of the various organizations that we support who provides essentials to the individuals in need in our community. You can bring donations of food, blankets, coats, etc. to the Mission board, or you may make a monetary donation.

Christmas Poinsettias are on sale for \$8.00 each. If you would like one in memory or honor of a loved one, they will be delivered on December 14th to decorate the Sanctuary. Please put your money in an envelope and write your name and to whom the flower is in memory or honor of. You may take them home after the morning service on Christmas Eve.

Have you seen our new website? If you haven't already, please go and have a look. There are lots of new features, such as online tithing, church events, sermon streaming, and more! If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email the church office.

Tylandbaptist.com

Thank you so much to our Tyland family for prayers, cards, words of encouragement, flowers, and for attending visitation and funeral service for Linda May. We are humbled by your kindness and out pouring of love during this sad time for our family.

The Christie Family

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