

IS THERE LIFE AFTER CHRISTMAS?

By Roy Goodlet

After all of the Christmas programs, shopping, singing of carols and everything else, what do you anticipate to have? And, more importantly, what will you be looking for after December 25th? Time will go on. Are you willing to look for what Jesus offers you today? Something that will give you reason to celebrate past December 25th? The Christmas story is a great story, but even in the Bible once it is over, it is over, and then the question is, "What's next?" The people of Israel must have asked that question and you need to ask this question. "After December 25th, what's next?"

As a child I anticipated Christmas day so much that many times I was disappointed when I looked out the window and it looked just like the day before. There was nothing magical about it. And when I was in college I remember that on the last day before Christmas break I had four final exams. It took me several days to realize it was time for Christmas. As a youth minister I spent so much time taking the youth caroling at hospitals, practicing Christmas plays, having a live nativity scene out in front of the church, and having special parties and programs that after Christmas I was ready to rest. On Christmas Day you may be thinking, "The house is a mess. Some of the clothes did not fit and need to be taken back. I already have what Aunt Matilda sent me, so I wonder if I can return it and get something else? I charged a lot of this stuff, and I am afraid to look at my checking account. Tomorrow is back to work, and I have to get ready to celebrate New Year's and watch the football games, and then there's the Super Bowl, and of course it will be income tax time."

Meanwhile what happened to the story of God coming to earth, in the flesh, as a baby named Jesus? Well, that's up to you.

There isn't much peace on this earth, and you know what? There won't ever be peace on this earth, because hate will still exist and wars will still continue. On a smaller scale, during Christmas some people paint a smile on their face and pretend to love everyone, and then later on say what they really think about them. And what seemed to be peace on earth for many people was only putting makeup on an ugly face. Underneath it was still ugly.

You and I live in a world that does not offer lasting satisfaction or true peace. Christmas is not over. For the Christian the celebration of Christmas continues. It happens every time we come together as a church family. We celebrate the coming of Jesus to earth to be our Savior. We sing of His love and sacrifice. We remember His death and resurrection during communion. We give our offerings with the joy of knowing our money will be used to spread the Christmas story to others in this world.

There is plenty of life after Christmas!

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