

The Power of Christ's Presence

By Greg Creasy

Jesus is the Reason for the Season...there is no Christmas without Christ. This is more than a holiday...it is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. We have heard these sayings through the years and have responded to them in various ways. As a Christian, we must make Jesus Christ the center of this season of celebration! When it comes right down to it, there is nothing more meaningful about the Christmas season than worshiping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and giving him honor and praise. Recently, I was reminded of this when I read an excerpt from a book entitled The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A' Kempis. He spoke of the power of putting Jesus Christ above all else in our lives:

Blessed are those who appreciate what it is to love Jesus. He alone should be loved above all things. Affection for (created beings) is deceitful and inconstant, but the love of Jesus is true and enduring. Whoever clings to a creature will fall because of its frailty. But those who give (themselves) to Jesus will ever be strengthened. Love Him, then. Keep Him as a friend. He will not leave you as others do or let you suffer lasting death. Sometime, whether or not you will, you will have to part with everything. Cling, therefore, to Jesus in life and death. Trust yourself to the glory of Him who alone can help you when all others fail.

What a powerful passage from this classic book. The author captures the true essence of Christmas in this writing. Although we enjoy the giving and receiving of gifts, they are just things...things that will one day be worn out, broken or outdated, and will eventually be replaced. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy giving gifts and seeing the smiles and joy of those receiving the gifts. But we must have a proper and right attitude about the most wonderful gift found in Jesus. When all else passes away...we will have Jesus. When life doesn't go our way...we will have Jesus. When relationships are broken and seem beyond repair...we will have Jesus. Whatever our situation...we will have Jesus.

My Christmas wish for each of you is very simple. I pray that you will cling tightly to Jesus through this season of joy and love and throughout the whole year. I hope that each day you would experience the love of Jesus and the joy of being in a relationship with Him. In the words of the apostle Paul:

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God
(Philippians 1: 9-11, NIV).

May the rich abundance of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you in every way this Christmas season. Merry Christmas!

Rev. Greg Creasy, Pastor
Pea Ridge Baptist Church
5945 E. Pea Ridge Road
Huntington, WV 25705
304.736.5572
www.pearidgebaptist.com