

Commentary 2

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THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SEASON

We are in the midst of the Christmas holiday season and while we are in the midst of buying, giving and receiving gifts, drinking and eating large holiday meals, and making merry with family and friends, we should remind ourselves of what Christmas is supposed to be about. We celebrate Christmas to celebrate the birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ, who was born into the world to save us from our sins, and to reconcile us back to God, our heavenly Father.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, sin was passed on to all mankind through their bloodlines. So, from the time when Adam, Eve, and the serpent were cursed by God, a savior was promised to come into the world to save man from sin and to place man back into his right spiritual relationship with God.

Let's recall the Bible story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:10-24) and how happy his father was when he had come to his right senses, learned life lessons, had acknowledged and

repented of his sins, and had returned home to his father. His father forgot all about the sins that the son had committed, and welcomed him home with open arms. This is also how our heavenly Father wants to welcome us back into relationship with Him and into His kingdom, our rightful home. However, we must come back to Him HIS way. (Ezekiel 18:32, 33:11; Luke 15:7; John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23; John 4:23-24)

*When Jesus was born, the wise men fell down and worshipped Him, and after they opened their treasures, they presented Him with gifts of gold and spices. (Matthew 2:11) In remembrance of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, it is fitting that **WE** should present **HIM** with our best gifts—the treasure of our hearts. (Matthew 6:20; Luke 12:34)*

Think of when the wise men opened their treasures and presented Jesus with their very best gifts of gold and spices. Then God, our heavenly Father gave us His very best and most precious gift of His only begotten Son to receive our punishment for sin, to receive into Himself our sin and all that sin causes (sickness, disease, infirmity, etc.), to be crucified to die in our place, to shed all of His blood to cover and blot out all of our sins, and to atone for our sins and reconcile us back into relationship with God, the Father. (John 3:16) Therefore, we should be willing to give the very best gifts that we can give—

our hearts, souls, and our whole selves completely unto God, our heavenly Father, and unto our Lord and savior, the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Let us begin our New Year with a new devotion and dedication unto the Lord, and let us return whole-heartedly unto the one that should be our "First Love."

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. (Revelation 2:4-5)