

# CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

— Christmas, 25 December 2014 —

John 14:17

Christmas is a lot of “humbug and ceremony”. It is close to the pagan ceremonies that the Catholic Churches used and to which they gave a Christian content. Today, however, the true Churches as well as the false Churches are reverting back to the pagan habits of the past: the gorging of food, the gulping of booze, the blasphemies of drunkards, the motor accidents, the headache, the filth, the rudeness. While for others, caring, lonely and loving wives and little children, there are only tears and heartache over Christmas.

How can I give my gifts to Him who is not of this World ?

How can I love Him who is not of this World ?

How can I know Him who is not of this World ?

How can I speak to Him who is not of this World ?

How can I worship Him whom I do not know?

How can I Celebrate Christmas without knowing the One whose birthday I am celebrating?

All the above are absolutely impossible. Please humble yourselves and take careful and serious note of what Jesus told us in response to the question Judas (not Iscariot) asked Him. “If you love Me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever — the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” Jesus replied, “If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love Him, and We will come to Him and make our home with him. He who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me.” John 14:15-17 & 22-24

Anybody who thinks about heaven and God as something for after life is deluded. They are excluded from heaven if God’s Spirit of Truth is not in them. Only those who have the Spirit of God in them will be led by God and only then the above-mentioned passage will be possible. God does not entrust His Spirit of Truth to those who dabble in the Word of God. All those who do not have the Spirit of Truth in them should seek God’s face and truly surrender their lives to Him, otherwise they are wasting their time coming to church, while they hope for something to happen one day when they die. Christmas is vital to understanding this. God sent Jesus Christ into the world, He died, was resurrected, He ascended and then at Pentecost He came down to dwell in us.

Anyone who played the game of broken telephone knows that the message that the last person receives is totally wrong. Moreover, preachers know that only 2% of the congregation listen to the sermon. Even communication between a husband or wife is far from perfect. In fact, verbal communication is a very poor form of communication. All that the one person imparts to the other person is of the persona i.e. a mask. However, God broke down all the barriers, that separate us from God in Jesus Christ: “My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” But when Christ and the Father lives in you, the communication is totally complete, hence the atonement. This is what Christmas is all about. May it bring us to the point where we are in perfect communication with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But those who are not able to communicate with God, have not received the Spirit of God.

It is therefore necessary for all who read this to ignore what the world says about Christmas. As Jesus told Judas, He is not making himself known to the world, because it is made up of people who are too proud and who have not received the Spirit of Truth. Only those who receive the Spirit of Truth know what Christmas is all about.

May God bless you abundantly with His indwelling Spirit and His life in you this Christmas. May He make that babe of Bethlehem rule in your life and dwell so that eternal life for you is right now. Be content in your heart and mind. Give up the rat race — you do not belong to the world. Enjoy your Lord and Saviour — especially at this time.

— Rev Fred Shaw