

We The People
Program 17



Christmas 2011

Can you believe it, Christmas again. It's nearly the end of another year as the sands of time relentlessly fall through the hour glass. It's a time of year with mixed blessings though and the further we depart from the true meaning of Christmas the more fruitless the passage of time is.

These days, so many say that Christmas is a time of good will and joy and it's really just for kids. Unfortunately it's not a happy time for many as it's over commercialised and it's certainly not just for children. 'Christ's Mass' or Christmas, is a man made celebration for the birth of Jesus Christ the son of God. However the commercial world and a Godless society have hijacked the occasion and injected greed and avarice so the public version is often corrupted. Personally I don't see the need to give predictable gifts at all, just give thanks instead. For some, it's a lonely time and for others it's a reminder of what they once had.

We sing about Rudolf the red nose reindeer and deck the halls with boughs of holly and about Santa Claus and so on. It all seems innocent enough except if you happen to be the Creator. Christmas is a time for giving to those who most need help in the true Christian spirit and as Benjamin Franklin said "a good conscience is a continual Christmas". It's a time of thanks giving and worship and of reverence. It's a time to renew your Christian faith and to see the world for what it is, a wasteland of hope and dignity for many. For those of us who are simple true Christians we know that Christmas is manmade and we know how to navigate away from the commercial aspects. Certainly in my view its best not to teach your children or grandchildren that it's a time for gifts and getting.

I love many of the Christmas carols and I love the gentle peaceful calm that comes to thinking Christians. Make a time this year to go out of your way to invite a lonely person to your home or to visit the sick or to find good in someone you dislike and tell them they too are loved. That can be hard of course but what a terrific lesson for your family and children to see Christianity in action. Christmas should not be made of idolatry and it should not be commercial. John 3:16 sums it up as this..."For God so loved the world he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Now that's a real lasting Christmas present and all it takes is faith. Some will not understand these words, some will laugh and some won't care but a handful of people will rejoice with all their heart and soul.

Very soon it will be Christmas so this year make a difference as a true Christian and cast aside the human trappings of the celebration and take up the gift that lasts for eternity through Jesus Christ. It's a wonderful way to live and it's full of hope and true wisdom not found in any text book or science journal. The ways of man represents the broad road while the way to salvation is narrow.

It has been a privilege to work with the dedicated team at 4CRB anchored in Christianity and good will all year round. We the people have to decide how to celebrate Christmas and the decision rests with each of you. Its spiritual democracy, so don't waste your vote.

Until next year this is Kent Bayley.