



Being a Witness During the Christmas Season



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The Christmas season is already upon us. Holiday cards line the shelves. Trees and decorations are on display in many stores. Ads for deals bombard us by mail, the media, and online. Recipes and coupons remind us to grab our favorite foods before they are all gone. Plans are being finalized, discussed, and hashed out as scores of people weigh their options with regards to whom they will visit, invite over, or tolerate for gathering time and festivities. More than any other time of the year, spending becomes a hot topic as individuals and families rationalize, justify, and/or debate whether or not to spend and how much. Clearly, the world system has developed a well-rounded marketing plan to remind the masses just how important this season is. In the midst of all this activity that will lead a number astray into a frenzy of overindulgence and self-gratification, others will be more profoundly reminded, brought face to face with, or quickly catapulted into feelings of desolation, inadequacy, loneliness, grief, and despair. In response to all of this, kingdom minded individuals can clearly demonstrate to the world just how important Christ is to this season.

Believers understand the seriousness of being lost in a lost world. We are familiar with the trappings of the systems around us as well as the struggles that originate within our own flesh. This life experience comes alongside of the firsthand experiential knowledge of Christ's work on the cross and resurrection as it relates to Christ's work for us and in us. There is no way for us to comprehensively break down and expound on every doctrine and theological question to the complete satisfaction of those who are lost and perishing (*John 5:40; Rom.8:7; 1 Cor.2:14*). Our duty is to be a living testimony to the endless mercy and grace that has been bestowed upon us by the living Savior.

Best of all, we do not have to rely on ourselves to do it. Christ has given us power through the Holy Spirit (*Acts 1:8*). God—in His sovereignty—prepares us and places us exactly where He wants us to be in order to carry out His plan for reaching the elect (*Ps.119:71; Gen.50:20*). As ambassadors of the good news, salt of the earth, and light in the midst of darkness, our lives witness to the truth of Christ as the only means of salvation

in a desperately dark and wicked world. Being a witness not only denotes a state of being, it is also a call for action or a state of doing.

Reflection

1. During this Christmas season, is there someone in particular—or a type of person—that you find difficult to be around that you are sure to encounter? How can you be intentional about being a witness to that person?
2. Do you know someone who is hurting (depressed, alone, etc.) or struggling with a vice or some other sin which is hindering their life and affecting others? Pray that the opportunity presents itself to pour into this person. What are some points that you would like to get across? If met with resistance, what might you say?

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