



November 27, 2024

MESSENGER

QUOTE FOR TODAY

"Ever since the creation of the world God's eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been seen and understood through the things God has made. So they are without excuse."
Romans 1:20

INFO

Sermons are always available...catch up on the ones you haven't heard!
iTunes: bit.ly/AltadenaBaptistPodcast
On our website:
www.altadenabaptist.org/sermonaudio/

Also, check us out online:
On the web: www.altadenabaptist.org

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Christmas is a *Journey!*

In our culture, we focus on **Christmas DAY** as our major winter holiday. Of course, that's December 25, Jesus' birthday! However, there are a couple of problems with that. First, no one knows on what day of which month he was born; even the exact year is in question. Second, the date that has been settled on in the Western Church (Roman Catholic and Protestant) is different from that identified by the Eastern Orthodox Christian world. The dates of Christmas in different societies vary between December 25 and January 6, 7 or even 19.

Actually, the impact of the Christmas message can't be contained in one day. That's why we often hear the phrase **Christmas SEASON**. This concept didn't emerge for commercial reasons, with retailers reminding us how many "Shopping Days 'Til Christmas." The commemoration of Advent, practiced in most Christian denominations begins forty days before the actual holiday. The Twelve Days of Christmas is another tradition that spreads the holiday experience beyond the one day.

Even this enlargement of the holiday over more time doesn't seem enough. The deeper dimensions of the meaning of the celebration is embraced by the term **Christmas SPIRIT**. Sometimes this phrase is used in a vague way, to describe a romantic feeling of warmth and acceptance, but it really points to a deeper truth -- that Christmas can be a powerful, life-changing spiritual experience.

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Continued from other side

In the Advent sermon series that we'll begin this Sunday, we'll introduce an idea that we believe can help the ABC family to experience Christmas with a new understanding. We're entitling it "**The Christmas JOURNEY.**"

Here are the six sermons we'll be sharing:

December 1 - *The REVELATION Journey to Christmas*

How God reveals himself through Creation and the Bible.

December 8 - *The PERSONAL Journey to Christmas*

How an individual person emerges into a spiritual being.

December 15 - *The DIVINE Journey to Christmas*

How God made the transition into weak humanity.

December 22 - *The HUMAN Journey to Christmas*

How a humble Jewish family traveled to Bethlehem.

December 29 - *The DISCOVERY Journey to Christmas*

How some Eastern mystics caravanned to Israel.

January 5 - *The BREAKOUT Journey to Christmas*

How Jesus' parents escaped to safety in Egypt.

It's our prayer that these next few weeks may lead to **your** journey to personal faith in the God of Christmas!

Pastors Connie DeVaughn
and George Van Alstine