

"What Y'all Doing for Christmas?"

12-23-18 Am

Text - Luke 2:1-40

Joe / Allison
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visited
from Ohio

Intro. - It's a question so often asked around this time of year. "What Y'all Doing for Christmas?" Common, friendly, and even considered showing Christmas spirit - it reminds us of the many memories of what we all did as children growing up - family traditions etc.

- Our Text - a lot of "Doing" going on at the 1st Century, the birth of Jesus -

"Doing" of Christmas - Buying, decorating, visiting, traveling, etc.

Notice 3 Christmas "Doings" (Activities) →

1 - WAITING - Simeon, Anna (Mary & Joseph)
The Jews - The World

2 - WORSHIPPING - The Wise Men
Matt 1-2

3 - WORKING - The Shepherds

"WWW" - OR - 3 CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

* WAITING * WORSHIPPING * WORKING

Text - Luke 2
Matt. 2

Titus 2: 11-15

15 3307am

Intro. - Our emphasis this December has been on the 2nd Coming of Christ.

"What y'all doing for Christmas?"

It is remarkable to see how the 1st Coming & the 2nd Coming are related. Many similarities exist, such as:

- Both are fulfillments of Prophecy (literally)
- Both are events affecting the World (Jews/Gentiles/Church)
- Both are preceded by signs (Human & Heavenly)
- Both are undeniable miracles
- Both are unique & secretive
- Both are involving God Himself in Person

— and many more can be seen in Scripture!

Let's focus on 3 important items:

- ① WAITING
- ② WORSHIPPING
- ③ WORKING

We don't do this well in PATTERN

① WAITING - Believers waited for 1st Coming
Believers wait for 2nd Coming

word, wait in order to welcome"
"move forward" NOTE - Luke 2 ...
so as to receive"

Think of waiting for relative returning and then seeing them, you get up & go towards them

"hearing"
SIMEON ^{son of Hillel}
+ ANNA - "gracious"
+ JOSEPH of Arimathea
"Adding"

→ All three were Looking/WAITING

cp. Titus 2:13 - same Gr. word

- * SIMEON - Attitude ✓
- * ANNA - Attribute ✓
- * JOSEPH - Activity ✓

"wise men still worship Him"

② WORSHIPPING - Matthew 2 - WISE MEN
+ 3 Gifts

N.T. usage

- * GOLD - KING Royalty
- * FRANKINCENSE - PRIEST - Divinity
- * MYRRH - PROPHET - sufferings humanity
- "to kiss the hand" - 60 times
- "to be reverential" - "bitterness"
- cure/therapy/heal - Acts 17:25
- to worship publicly - 20 times
- to venerate, revere - 10 times (hold in awe fear)

Their worship involved:
Time
Effort
Travel
Endurance
Giving
Thought
Prayer

Approach
Adoration
Awe

→ At the 1st Coming of Christ, believers were WAITING + WORSHIPPING...

NEXT - we see them:

③ WORKING - Think of the shepherds, doing their job
Luke 2:8 "Keeping watch over their flock"
- business as usual -

cp. Titus 2:11-15 ... "... zealous of good works"
while we look for Jesus to return

(VINE'S: To produce / To perform / Be Active & operative)
* "We'll Work 'til Jesus Comes" — Over Maudy Orders!
{ Declaration of Independence }
{ Emancipation }
died
— written by Elizabeth King Mills (24 yrs. old)
(1805-1829)

(her husband was Member of Parliament,
Thomas Mills)

Wiersbe:
* Constructionists
* Destructionists
* Obstructionists

Look Busy ~ Jesus is Coming!"
vs.

"Get Busy ~ Jesus is Coming!"
(Benson sticker)

— work —
* Not Flashy, but faithful
— beware of complacency —
dreadful disease that rots
great enemy of life/work

Illustrations

We are not patient: A woman's car stalled in traffic. She looked in vain under the hood to identify the cause, while the driver behind her leaned relentlessly on his horn. Finally she had enough. She walked back to his car and offered sweetly, "I don't know what's wrong with my car. But if you go look under the hood, I'll be glad to stay here and honk for you."

God's idea of waiting: The apostle Peter wrote, *"that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years."* An economist once read those words and got very excited.

"Lord - is it true that a thousand years for us is just like a minute to you?"

"Yes."

"Then a million dollars to us must just be a penny to you."

"Yes."

"Lord, would you give me one of those pennies?"

"All right. Wait here a minute."

Warren W. Wiersbe, *"Some people are constructionists, helping get the job done. Others are destructionists, busy tearing things down. A third group are obstructionists who create problems for the people doing the work. In which group are you?"*

Bumper stickers carry messages of all sorts. Recently, I saw one exclaiming, "JESUS IS COMING EVERYONE LOOK BUSY!" Since the Lord is not impressed with our attempts to make an impression, we should say, "JESUS IS COMING EVERYONE GET BUSY!"