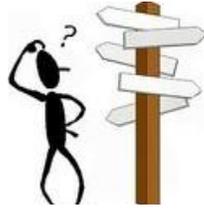


If I Were the Devil

Excerpts by Paul Harvey (© 1999 Paul Harvey News)

- I would promote an attitude of loving things and using people, instead of the other way around;
- I would dupe entire states into relying on gambling for their state revenue;
- I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership;
- I would make it legal to take the life of unborn babies;
- I would cheapen human life as much as possible so that the life of animals are valued more than human beings;
- I would take God out of the schools, where even the mention of His name was grounds for a lawsuit;
- I would get control of the media, so that every night I could pollute the mind of every family member for my agenda;
- I would convince the people that right and wrong are determined by a few who call themselves authorities and refer to their agenda as politically correct;
- I would persuade people that the church is irrelevant and out of date, and the Bible is for the naive;
- I would dull the minds of Christians, and make them believe that prayer is not important, and that faithfulness and obedience are optional;

I guess I would leave things pretty much the way they are.



GETTING CONNECTED

a Publication of...

Mt. Brydges Baptist Church

P.O. Box 259 Mt Brydges, Ontario N0L 1W0 519-317-8659
mtbrydgesbaptist.ca, Edited by Pastor Dave Adams

True Christian Christmas

Christmas isn't showy gifts
Or glittering decoration;
It's honouring our Saviour, Jesus
Christ
In humble adoration.
It's serving those less fortunate,
Meeting their needs before our
own;
It's making sure at Christmas time
That no one is alone.
It's taking what we would have
spent
On things that no one needs,
And using it to help someone
With service and good deeds.
Our Saviour showed us how to live
With charity, faith and service.
It makes the holidays a joy,
More peaceful, and less nervous.
So let's remember Christmas is
About our Saviour's birth;
That's the way to happiness,
The way to peace on earth.

By Joanna Fuchs



*For unto us a child is born;
unto us a Son is given...*

December 2015



*Christmas began
in the heart of God.
It is complete only
when it reaches the
heart of man.*

Check out inside...

- The coolest thing...
- A Tree for Christmas
- Something to Think About
- Mark your Calendar
- If I were the Devil
- Family Christmas Dinner
- Christmas Eve Service

Family Christmas Celebration & Dinner

Sunday December 13th at 10:30 a.m.

HOSTED BY COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CENTRE

- **Bring your favourite dish and join us!**
- **Invite your family & friends for a great DAY!**
- **Turkey & Potatoes provided**



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday December 24th 7:30pm

**Hear the story of that First Christmas night
Sing the carols * Light a candle of hope
Come and bring the whole family!**



"Where Christ is cherished, family is loved, and everyone is family"



Join us each Sunday for Worship...

Meeting at: Community Christian Centre
22243 Allen Rd @ Adelaide Rd (South of Mt Brydges)

EACH SUNDAY starting @ 3 p.m.

Everyone Welcome!



This is like totally the coolest thing that has ever happened in this stable!



A Tree for Christmas

Admiring the Christmas trees displayed in his neighbours' windows, Nathan asked his father, 'Daddy, can we have a Hanukkah tree?' 'What? No, of course not!' His father responds. 'Why not?' Asks Nathan again. Bewildered and frustrated, his father replies, 'Well, Nathan, because the last time we had to deal with a lighted bush we spent 40 years in the wilderness.'

Be rash this Christmas – Wish Merry Christmas to a stranger!

Something to Think About...



"One person esteems one day as better than another; while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honour of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honour of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honour of the Lord and gives thanks to God." [Romans 14:5-6]

According to Paul's words, Christians can rightly set aside any day, including Christmas, as a day for the Lord. We don't find any specific command in scripture for us to celebrate Christmas - in fact, Christmas wasn't observed as a holiday until well after New Testament times. Only around the mid-fifth century did Christmas receive official recognition but what a great opportunity to bring praise and celebration together in worship of our Lord and Saviour remembering the wonderful gift given by our Heavenly Father.

The Christmas season should remind us of the wonder of the Incarnation – Emmanuel, God with us. Such truth needs repetition so that we truly remember the extent of God's bountiful grace and love. As we celebrate Christ's birth and marvel at God's great love we're brought to a renewed position of worship.

The shepherds and wise men each came to Jesus with an attitude of reverent worship. The shepherds came glorifying and praising God, not considering their position in society as something making them unworthy. The wise men, though esteemed by the world, came to Jesus humbly seeking a King above all kings. The angels proclaimed that in Bethlehem a Saviour had been born who was nothing less than *Christ the Lord* [Luke 2:11]. The good news was announced that a baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes humbly laying in a feeding trough for livestock was the promised Saviour for the world – the *"Lord of lords and King of kings"* [Revelation 17:14]

Each year in this season, the most hardened skeptic can be softened by the message of love, joy, and forgiveness; the lost and forlorn can look for hope. Movies change to hopeful, romantic scenerios where love and truth prevails. What a wonderful opportunity then for us to share the good news which gives us life and joy with those around us as we sing the carols, tell the story and perhaps extend a little love to the less fortunate around us. What a wonderful opportunity to be reminded that we too are unworthy of the love poured out for us but that God loves us that much!

Why not this Christmas take advantage of this time of celebration, heartedly sharing a Merry Christmas, or a God bless you one and all; bringing words of encouragement to each one you meet bringing to them the saving grace of God given through His Son, Jesus whom we recognize as that special gift for each of us. Christmas can be a holy day in each of our hearts if we would make it chiefly about God's promised Messiah who came and took away our sins.

Merry Christmas

Mark your Calendar...

December 7th, 14th, & 21st
– Bible Study @ 8771 Parkhouse
"Pursuing the Love of God"

December 6th
– Communion Sunday

December 13th 10:30 a.m.
- Enjoying Worship service with Community Christian Center & Christmas Lunch (No 3pm service)

December 24th 7pm
– Christmas Eve Program.
Plan to come and bring your family and friends!