

CHRISTMAS WEEK SERVICE

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21, 2016
MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER JH 411

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Why Atheists Love To Hate Christmas

Subtitled:

Why Weirdos Love To Hate Christmas
announcing, debating, celebrating the 1st coming of Jesus Christ

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:
Christmas, Evangelism, Salvation, Hope, Apologetics

Introduction to the Text; Luke 2:4-20

I want to give you a message tonight that you could use
this coming Christmas week more as a “witnessing tool” if you would.

Maybe it can be a stocking stuffer for your co-workers
or friends and family

Originally - I wanted to call the message
“Why Atheists Love To Hate Christmas”
but the truth is - - the angst against Christmas has never been directed at some
stout, red-suited, black-booted philanthropists with reindeer.

<http://wp.production.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/files/2015/12/HBFggXM.png>

The angst against Christmas is - - that it’s all about the message !

“The Problem With Christmas is The Message”

After all - Atheists buy gifts. They have Christmas trees
and lighted houses and if they have little children – they might even get
dressed up as Ole’ Saint Nick

Let’s be Honest - Atheists Love Santa –
He’s good for the economy , great for office parties, it’s a great time of
the year to get free stuff and time off...

But Here’s the Argument;
Pure and Simple - Christmas Challenges Our Ability to Think and Reason.

So I decided not to call the message;

“Why Atheists Love To Hate Christmas” - But Rather,
“Why Weirdos Love To Hate Christmas”

http://a57.foxnews.com/images.foxnews.com/content/fox-news/us/2016/12/05/american-atheists-make-christmas-great-again-by-skipping-church/_jcr_content/par/featured-media/media-0.img.jpg/876/493/1480967589866.jpg?ve=1&tl=1

“Why Weirdos Love To Hate Christmas”
terrorist driving badly

https://gdb.voanews.com/72D3482F-0EEE-4C47-92FD-87AE55349634_cx0_cy5_cw0_w987_r1_s_r1.jpg

http://static-40.sinclairstoryline.com/resources/media/b21f8b14-e942-4178-97e7-b4ef38dcc138-large16x9_GermanyChristmasMar_Nort1.jpg?1482270123306

Luke 2:4-20

Joseph also went up from **Galilee**, out of the city of **Nazareth**, into **Judea**, to the **city of David**, which is called **Bethlehem**, because he was of the house and lineage of David, :5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. :6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. :7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. :8 Now there were in the same country **shepherds** living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night:9 And behold, an **angel** of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. :10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, **for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.** :11 **For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.** :12 And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” :13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: :14 **“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”** :15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, **“Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.** :16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. :17 Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. :18 And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. :19 But Mary kept all these things and **pondered them in her heart.** :20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

How can we know - - and how can the atheist or the weirdo

know for sure that the Christmas Story is a Factual Accounting of an Actual Historical Event?

“Why Atheists and Weirdos Love To Hate Christmas”

1. It turns out that God kept His Promise

Christians are Excited about Christmas Because
of what the Bible has to say of Him

we love promises because they bring us hope and they create a sense of anticipation in us!

The Bible Said That...

Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. :7 Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. for the zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

The Bible Said That...

Micah 5:2

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting.”

The Bible Says That...

Titus 1:2

The truth of God gives us confidence of eternal life, which God has promised us before the world began - for God cannot lie.

The Reason

**“Why Atheists and Weirdos Love To Hate Christmas”
Is Because The Message of Christmas is Intolerable !**

“Why Atheists and Weirdos Love To Hate Christmas”

2. It turns out that Jesus Christ is more famous.

They Just Can’t Get Away From The “Jesus Christ” of the Bible.

#1 - The date on the calendar drives them crazy. (bc, ad, bce, ace)

Ad. = in the year of the Lord Christ. Bc = Before Christ

#2 – The fact that they use His name to cuss and to curse.

Jesus Christ is the name that all atheists and weirdos have in common.

#3 – There have been more books written, more hospitals built, more universities dedicated, more documentaries produced, more commentaries published – than anyone else in history.

Apostle John or Prophet John ?

John 21:24-25

This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. :25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

There Are Four (4) Gospel Accounts,

each giving you certain highlighted events that address mankind's greatest concerns and answers man's deepest questions.

Matthew 4:23-25

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. :24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases :23 and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. :25 Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and *from* Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

Matthew 14:14-16

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. :15 When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." :16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

Jesus Christ "confirms" the "old testament promises" of the Bible by doing what was promised.

Isaiah 42:1-8

"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. 2 He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. 4 He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law." 5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: 6 "I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, 7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. 8 I am the LORD, that is My name;

Isaiah 35:5-6

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing.

Matthew 20:29-34

Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. :30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" :31 Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" :32 So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" :33 They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened." :34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him

Jesus' fame spread throughout the roman empire,
into Europe and beyond, all the way to your ears now...

"Why Atheists and Weirdos Love To Hate Christmas"

3. Sorry to rub it in but – Jesus is the One and Only

The "**I AM**" Jesus of the Bible set Himself apart
from all others, of all time, forever more !

Lightning Round

John 8:58

Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM**."

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "**I AM** the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 10:9

I AM the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved,
and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "**I AM** the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

Revelation 1:8

"**I AM** the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord,
"Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty."

Philippians 2:10-11

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, :11 and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Proverbs 30:4 NLT

Who but God goes up to heaven and comes back down? Who holds the wind in His fists? Who wraps up the oceans in His cloak? Who has created the entire world? What is His Name - and His Son's name? Tell me if you know!

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 John 5:20

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish

thing that people often say about Jesus Christ: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God.

- C.S. Lewis

"Why Atheists and Weirdos Love To Hate Christmas"

4. Because nothing says "Sacrifice" more than Christmas

**When the Hebrew Prophet, - Yehohanan, John
Announced Jesus' Sacrificial Ministry – He made it very clear.**

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold!
The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

The Christmas story was just the beginning of Jesus',
redemptive ministry and mission – all of it would lead to abuse,
sorrow, rejection, hatred and crucifixion.

John 12:32-33

And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all *peoples* to Myself.”
:33 This Jesus said, signifying by what death He would die.

Matthew 17:22

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, :23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.”

1 John 2:2

He is **the sacrifice** for our sins.
He takes away not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

Luke 23:44-47

Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. :45 Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. :46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’ ” Having said this, He breathed His last. :47 So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, “Certainly this was a righteous Man!”

You Can Define "Sacrifice" with One Word - Jesus !

“Why Atheists and Weirdos Love To Hate Christmas”

5. Because the “resurrection of Jesus cannot be true”

That’s the main note to their lonely song.

Attention All Atheists / Weirdos

Jesus wasn't murdered, He wasn't killed Bill O'Reilly.

Jesus was not a victim, His PR stunt didn't get out of control...

John 10:17

“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. **18** No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

it was Jesus who laid down His life for us,
but even more so, raised it to life again

John 14:18-19

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. :19 “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. :26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Romans 1:2-4

God promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, :3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, :4 *and declared to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

"Why Atheists and Weirdos Love To Hate Christmas"

6. Is because the Christmas Christ is alive.

We Rejoice This Season Because

Jesus came to set us free from death's power
this baby Jesus came to defeat death

Matthew 28:1-9

Now after the Sabbath, as the first *day* of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. :2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. :3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. :4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead *men*. :5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. :6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. :7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." :8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. :9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

Revelation 1:17-18

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. :18 *I am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.

What Jesus expects from your life is a decision.

A decision – A decision - A decision
Because Jesus is alive, you cannot afford to ignore
Him and what His life means.

“Why Atheists and Weirdos Love To Hate Christmas”

7. Christmas brings the Spirit of Gifting.

We're Humbled This Season Because
there is really only One real gift at Christmas

John 3:15-17

that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life :**16** For God
so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in
Him should not perish but have everlasting life. :**17** For God did not send His
Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world
through Him might be saved.

receiving a gift is humbling / hard / neutralizing

COME TO JESUS TODAY

The Cross, The Christ, The Call

_____ **End of Study** _____

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