



# BIBLE NUGGETS

Ken Hampton

*Grace*  
BIBLE CHAPEL.COM

## A Bible Nugget Special Addition

A Merry Christ-Centered Christmas

### The Cross is God's Christmas Tree

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

#### **The Origin of the Modern Christmas Tree:**

What is the origin of the modern Christmas tree? This question arises regularly with each return of the holiday season and just as regularly disappears into the silence of uncertainty at the close of the Christmas festivities. While there is no answer of a definite nature, one thing is for sure: It has no biblical basis. How the decorated tree found its way into the Christmas celebration is a question which has no categorical conclusion whatsoever. Some find the origin of the Christmas tree among the Druids who were tree worshipers. And, if your ancestors came from northern Europe, as did mine, I suppose there were Druids among them. Still others find the origin of this custom in the superstition of a corrupt church, but the facts available do not seem to warrant such a conclusion. There is no scriptural basis, and thus far there seems to be no historical basis upon which the use of this merriest of Christmas ornaments rests. There are those who connect it with it with the Saturnalia of the ancient Romans and their use of evergreens over the door during the days of that pagan festival, a festival bitterly denounced by the early church. Tertullian wrote extensively against it.

#### **The Present Paganism of the Christmas Tree:**

Actually the important consideration for us is not the Christmas tree but the present paganism which attends its use and the crass materialism which has been brought to surround it even in Christian homes and celebrations. In spite of all this, God has His Christmas tree. It is not as pretty as the department store tree, I grant you. It is not filled with baubles of color and tinsel, nor is it bright with trinkets and lights. But God does have a Christmas tree – it is the Cross of Christ! In fact, the proper name for the cross is tree. You will remember that the early church spoke of it that way. In one of the first great sermons ever given in the church we find, “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree” (Acts 5:30). And Peter in his first epistle writes: Whom His own self bore our sins His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed (1Peter 2:24).

## **The Gifts Under God's Christmas Tree:**

Let us look underneath God's Christmas tree and discover some of the many gifts of His grace that are there for you today. You may not recognize these gift at first because they are of a spiritual nature, and you are used to those things which come gift wrapped. Yet they are of infinite beauty, for they come out of the heavenlies. They have not been bought at an expansion sale of a pre-Christmas sale; they have been purchased with the blood of Christ. Because they are spiritual, some may think that they are not practical and relevant. In each there is something for you at this present hour.

## **Do Not Open Until Eternity:**

We so often think of salvation as being something that is yet future, that it is a package labeled "Do not open until eternity." We think of salvation in terms of golden streets, crowns, white robes, and harps in our hands. But, my friend, the salvation that God gives is a salvation for right now, and it brings gifts to you. They are underneath God's Christmas tree, they have your name on them, and you can receive them now. You will not have to wait till Christmas. These gifts come to us by faith. And that is the only way in the world in which you will receive and gift at this season of the year. When a package comes through the mail or someone brings a gift to you, it is by faith that your hand accepts the gift. You have confidence in the giver, and because you believe he wants you to have it, by faith you stretch forth your hand and accept it.

## **Underneath God's Christmas Tree:**

The Lord Jesus Christ on the cross made peace between a holy God and a lost sinner. Peace comes from the knowledge that sins have been forgiven. There is the gift of peace for any sinner who will receive it, because underneath His Christmas tree lays the gift of eternal life which is in Christ Jesus. Peace is the thing for which the human heart longs above all else. It's at the foot of the cross. Why don't you pick it up? Dr. Griffith Thomas, that great Bible teacher of years ago, made this statement: "Christianity is the religion of access." Do you know that all the religions of the world shut man out from God? Religions are nothing but a maze of ritual and liturgy that have never guaranteed any man's entrance into the presence of God. In fact, religion stops man and blocks the way until he does something or pays something. Even in the Old Testament man did not have access to God. The Tabernacle shut man out. No ordinary man ever went into the Holy of Holies. No one but Israel's high priest ever went there, and he but once a year, and then only with blood. One of the glorious things of this day in which we live is the fact that we have direct and immediate access to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. (God's speed for a Christ-centered Merry Christmas)

### **GRACE BIBLE CHAPEL'S NEW TEMPORARY LOCATION**

**Five Mile Road One Block West of Inkster Road**

**St. Paul Presbyterian Church**

**The New Mailing Address: Grace Bible Chapel P.O. Box 51208 - Livonia, Mi. 48151**

**New Year's Day Meeting - Saturday, January 1, 2022 Grace Bible Chapel's**

**Annual New Year's Day Meeting at The Armenian Congregational Church**

**26210 West 12 Mile Road (One Block East of Telegraph Road - West of Ram Horn's Restaurant)**

**Speakers: Pastors Ken Hampton & Bob Herriman**

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