

The Coexistence of Grief and Joy at Christmas

Ezra 3:10-13, Luke 2:25-35 – December 3, 2017

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Background on the rebuilding of Jerusalem, and particularly its temple, after the return of the Israelite exiles:

Ezra 3:10-13 – Why do the elders weep while the younger generations shout out with joy?

It's not what it _____

It's not what they _____ it to be

These kinds of disappointments are experienced by many at Christmas time.

What are some ways that our reality doesn't necessarily match our ideal expectations of what the Christmas holiday should be like?

The sadness we feel at Christmas may even be compounded by the fact that as Christians, we know that we *should* feel a sense of joy when we reflect on the coming of Jesus. We add _____ to our sadness, because we cannot bring ourselves to be happy when we know we should.

it's important that we get a more realistic picture in mind of what Christmas really is, what it really *should* be.

Biblical Christmas was not an entirely _____ time

Luke 2:35 – ...and a sword will pierce through your own soul also, so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

Jesus came to suffer for us, and to suffer _____ us. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

The closest thing we have to heaven on earth isn't a once a year holiday – it's Jesus Christ every day.

If you are hurting this holiday season, and you do not yet know the wonderful joy of trusting in salvation by grace, than your remedy is trusting in _____

If you are a believer who is burdened by sadness through this time of year because life has fallen short of giving you true happiness, then your remedy is resting in _____

A challenge to the Merry at Christmas:

*Do not add to another's grief by condemning them for it. Their sadness is not ruining your joy – if you are joyous for the right reasons. Exercise patience by weeping with those who weep.