

The “Spirit of Christmas” and “the true meaning of Christmas.” What are they?

Most non-Christians have taken a humanistic interpretation of Christmas and determined they are that people should get along with each other and feel good about each other – “good will toward men”. We see this in the Christmas songs we hear on the radio and the specials we see on the television.

There is no doubt that the Christmas season brings with it the most intensely emotional time of year. Caring, sharing and love take over in the forms of charitable giving and taking time off to spend with families and friends – “good will toward men”. Christians, no doubt, feel these same emotions and there is no reason why we shouldn’t.

But Christians should also recognize, and help non-Christians to see, that the “true meaning of Christmas” lies elsewhere. When the angels announcing Christ’s birth sang about “good will toward men” [Luke 2:14], they were not singing about people showing good will toward other people, but about God showing good will toward men. By becoming human, dying on the cross for our sins, and rising from the dead, Jesus overcame sin and the grave for us. Sin would destroy the spirit of caring, sharing and love. However, because Jesus Christ came to earth and overcame sin, it’s a wonderful life both now and forever for all who believe in Him.