

CrossRoads Community Church
Sermon Summary Sheet, Week of November 29, 2020
“Christmas is Coming”
Part 1: Coming in Truth, Ephesians 4: 17-32

By saying “Christmas is Coming” in our context for this sermon series, we don’t mean let’s get excited about the approaching event (although December 25th is fast upon us), but OUR APPROACH TO THE EVENT, i.e., how we live in light of Jesus’ coming to this earth.

TODAY’S TRUTH Our celebration of the birth of Jesus should be about living in Him, living in His truth, as He is the truth.

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK:

Transformation with Surety – Ephesians 4: 13-16

Moving from Faith to Fullness (sanctifying behavior)

Making Firm the Foundation (resisting the trickery of false teachers)

Motivated by Family Functioning (everyone engaged in ministry and edifying one other)

1. FORGOING IGNORANCE AND REJECTION

Ephesians 4:17 “...that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,”

- *Aimlessness – 1 Cor. 9:26*
- *Agnosticism – 1 Peter 1:13-14*
- *Alienation – Isaiah 1:4*

2. FOLLOWING INSTRUCTION AND REBIRTH (I.E., A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST)

Ephesians 4:20-21 “But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:”

- *Learn Christ - Matt. 11:29*
- *Listen to Christ– Matt. 7:24*
- *Live in Christ – James 1:21-22*

3. FELLOWSHIPING WITH INTEGRITY AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Ephesians 4:25 “Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, or we are members of one another.’”

- *Our Speech- James 1:26*
- *Our Stuff –Hebrews 13:5*
- *Our Seal – Eph. 1:13, Rom. 6:6*

CONCLUSION

Coming in Truth means “the integration of Christian experience (what we are), Christian theology (what we believe), and Christian ethics (how we behave). It emphasizes that being, thought and action belong together and must never be separated.” John Stott, Ephesians: Building a Community in Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Open: It's been said that "hindsight is 20/20." Give an example of one thing you know now that you wish you had known earlier in your life.

- 1. If a person did not have a dramatic "born again" experience in coming to Christ, how can he or she know that they are truly saved?**
- 2. According to 4:17-19, how do the mind, heart and conscience influence the actions of non-believers?**
- 3. If the "old man" is dead and removed at salvation (2 Cor. 5:17), why do we still struggle against sin?**
- 4. What are some practical ways to be renewed in the spirit of your mind? Be specific.**
- 5. What does "put on...put off" entail (4: 22-24)**
- 6. Is it possible to change conduct without a transformation of the heart?**
- 7. According to Paul, what specific actions distinguish the Christian lifestyle from the pagan lifestyle (4:25-32)? How well are you doing in reflecting these actions? What areas need the most help? Share and ask the group to pray for you.**
- 8. Please pray for CrossRoads, our unity, our ministry, and your involvement to help us all grow to "the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."**