

THE PASTOR'S STUDY

December 17, 2011

Pastor Earl Chiddix-Eternal Harvest Church

DECEMBER

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Spirit of Christmas: A general feeling of emotional beneficence associated with Christmas

Beneficence: actions that promote the well-being of others.

There are many of us busily preparing for Christmas, just to be sure that everything is right, in order, and beautiful for the traditional time we spend with friends and family. And I know that most of us, if not all, are reflecting on the “reason for the season”—God’s precious gift—a Savior for the fallen world.

But what are we doing for our neighbors? Maybe we send them a Christmas Card. Maybe we make them some Christmas treats and wrap them up in a pretty box. Maybe we share verbal greetings of goodwill and shouts of “Merry Christmas”, “Seasons Greetings”, and “Happy Holidays” when we pass them on the streets. But, do we share God’s precious gift—the Savior for our fallen neighbors?

Are we too busy, in this season of hustle and bustle, to mention to our neighbors Jesus in a manner other than referring to Him as the baby in a manger. The Christ-child—the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes—the recipient of gifts from the wise men or adoration from the shepherds. Don’t get me wrong. I acknowledge the beginnings of our dear Savior, but like we should acknowledge the cross of Jesus, where He manifested His great love for us by nailing, if you will, all of our sins, our diseases, our poverty, our infirmities, our imperfect-nesses (Here you go, English teachers—have fun with that one) and move away from it to acknowledge the risen Savior—the One seated on the right hand of God—far above all principalities, powers, dominions, and every name that is named-not only in this world, but in that which is to come. Like Kenneth Hagin said once in

one of his teachings—“move away from the cross and come on up here, where we are seated with Him.”

That’s the real story of Christmas—the resurrection—You see, it was all talk until then—until the Father and His power raised His Son, Jesus Christ. It was good to talk about the coming Messiah—they did it for centuries, but when the moment came, they rejected Him and still do today. That’s why we must share this Jesus—not as the baby in the manger, but as the risen Lord! To all our neighbors: Christ is born—Christ died and rose and is alive today—the greatest gift God gave to His children—wrapped up in His plan of redemption.

Merry Christmas!