



From Conrad Barrett

In one expression or another, people throughout the world celebrate Christmas. It may be that festivities and the excitement of gift giving and receiving have captured our attention along with the beauty of tinsel and holly. But, it's Christmas time and this is part of the season. Economic influence is a strong factor, too, and many may find its influence more inviting than the spiritual basis of this special time of year. Consciously or unconsciously we are participants.

Is "Merry Christmas" becoming a greeting of the past? Are we now being encouraged to say "Happy Holidays", instead? Who and what is the engine that drives this change? Is the secular overcoming the spiritual and if so, who among us will dare oppose it?

A casual observance of what happens at Christmas time tells us that most people, believers, as well as non-believers in Christ, enjoy many benefits from the Christmas season. No objection, therefore, should ever skew our minds away from its true meaning. It is the time we call Christmas and it is associated with the person Jesus Christ. December 25, may not be the actual time of Christ's birth because no one knows for sure, but we do know His birth did take place.

Christmas will be forever and can never be stopped. It will always be in the minds and hearts of human beings. Never should the word "Christ" be muted nor removed from the affairs of the human family. Christ in Christmas is obvious. It is like blue in our sky and green in our grass. It will always be, and will never be just a historical footnote.

Any effort to remove the true Christmas message is futile and no mind nor pen can eradicate its message. One can dip the Atlantic dry as easily as he can negate the influence of Jesus upon the Christmas season and message. It bears its own mark of permanence and its true

translation is hope, peace and goodwill to all. None is excluded from the blessings.

From the halls of government to the pews in our churches, the message of Christ speaks to the heart of freedom, not only to the human soul, but to the soul of our nation as well. The real meaning of Christmas and the message of Christ are always the same—freedom for the soul and freedom for the world.

*During this Christmas season and all future Christmases, be encouraged to say **“Merry Christmas.”** It will bless others; it will bless you.*

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