

I'm Dreaming of a RIGHT Christmas  
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

In order to have a joyous and meaningful Christmas there are certain things that must be part of our lives.

1. A Right Christmas includes Making Room for Christ. These days there is always the danger of being caught up with the commercialization of Christmas – buying, baking, bills, decorations, dinners-so that Christmas comes and goes without any sense of our Lord's presence. We are left with an empty ache in our hearts in the place where Christ should be. When Christ was born in Bethlehem "There was no room in the Inn." (Luke 2:7). But now, because he came, Heavens door is open wide that whosoever will may come.
2. A Right Christmas includes Meaningful Worship. "When the wise men came into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother, they fell down and worshiped him" (Matthew 2:11). Rev. William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, defines Worship:

"To Quicken or make alive the  
Conscience by the Holiness of God.  
To Feed the Mind with the Truth of God.  
To Purge the Imagination by the  
Beauty of God.  
To Open the Heart to the Love of God.  
To Devote the Will to the Purpose of  
God."

Christian worship means ascribing supreme worth to God.

3. A Right Christmas includes the Joy of Giving. "The wise men opened their treasures and presented the Christ child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." (Matt. 2:11).  
Someone has said that there are two kinds of people in today's society – the takers and the givers. The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better. If we are honest I think we would all agree that the gifts that bring us the greater happiness are not the ones we receive but the ones we give.
4. The Right kind of Christmas means Sharing with Others the Good News of the Gospel. "When they had seen it, the shepherds spread the word concerning the Christ child" (Luke 2: 17). The shepherds did not make the mistake of keeping this wonderful news to themselves. Especially at Christmas we can all think of those who are sick and shut-in, facing financial needs or other problems. Love is the key – love for God and love for those around us. Love will find a way to share our blessings with those in need.

Let us seek to put into practice these 4 priorities, not just at Christmas but throughout the entire year.

Let us make room for Christ in our hearts and homes.

Let us Worship God in his house as a family.

Let us bring gifts, first to God and then to others.

Let us share with others the story of Jesus and His Love.

May all your dreams come true and may you have a truly RIGHT CHRISTMAS.