



STEWARDSHIP – Living Without Compromise

WHY SANTA STILL DOMINATES CHRISTMAS

WELCOME – and what a blessing we have received to see another month and enjoy the celebration of our Lord and Saviors birth. Thank you for the opportunity to share a word from the Lord with you. Our Lord is soon coming and we must do all we can to talk, walk and live for Jesus so others will seek Him as Savior and Lord.

We have been talking about various subjects that support this year's theme – "Living Without Compromise." The question, why did you leave me, was selected to provoke your thinking, Get real – Let's Run the Race, was selected to encourage you and this month, the subject is a call to action.

Why Santa still dominates Christmas is purely economics. You see, the bottom line is companies want to make money and money drives their marketing strategy. If a product is not a moneymaker, it is toss for one that is. Jesus is not a moneymaker but Santa is. Now my question is, if we who know and love Jesus were following stewardship to the max and only purchased gifts that pointed to the realness of Jesus, would we see a difference in the products of choice? The answer is YES!

Economic gain as always been a concern for some in fact, Act 16 noted the masters were not concern for the damsel (the girl or young unmarried woman) they were concern about making money. In Acts 19, the men were not concerned with the truth, but the continuation of self-wealth. The civil rights movement, note the excerpt from its history file, " By this point, some members of Montgomery's business community were becoming frustrated with the boycott, which was costing them thousands of dollars because blacks were less likely to shop in downtown stores. Although they were as opposed to integration as the next white Montgomery resident, they realized that the boycott was bad for business and therefore wanted the boycott to end."

There are many examples of economic greed that has been the driving force behind many a decisions and that mentality, sad to say, will continue to plague the world until Jesus comes back. However, in our own segment/home, where we live, we can make a difference.

To long have we stood silent and allowed others to strip the only source of our hope from the schools, from visibility in decorations, from music, and from our focus.

Santa rides in the parade, as first seat at the mall and children desire a picture with him. Santa advertises the gifts that should be purchased, weather you can afford them or not. Santa can pass out candy at events, and everyone knows, Santa makes your wishes happen because he keeps a list and visits all homes around the world in one night.

Perhaps you have not noticed the change because Satan kept the change subtle. Even though Santa, for the most part, is not a believed to be true, the image is still and even more so today the drawing economic visual in most advertisement.

Jesus, whose birth we celebrate, has been moved out of plain view if anything with his name is even in the store at all. Christmas cards, many are so general that they express nothing of our savior's birth and it is those nothing cards that are visible and the priced low.

Let me provoke your thinking so you can take action as you enjoy this most wonderful celebration of the birth of Jesus our Lord and savior.

SATAN - in Christianity, the enemy of God, the lord of evil, the tempter of human beings and the one who distracts us from focusing on the truth of Jesus.

SANTA - Christmas personified as a jolly old man with a white beard and a red suit who brings presents to children.

JESUS – our only hope, whose birth is the greatest gift to all, who deserves our full attention and praise at all times.

TAKE ACTION – Christmas 2010, Jesus should shine more so because of who He is and for what He continues to do for us all. His children should let the world know he is **NUMBER ONE SECOND TO NONE**. Remember, Satan's place is to distract and destroy.

If you move the N in the name **SANTA** what do you see? **SANTA SA_TA SATAN**

Much prayer and love to each of you. His steward Karen Cheathem



Luke 2:1-14

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



The Visit of the Shepherds

Luke 2:15-20

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



PRAISE AND CELEBRATE OUR ONLY HOPE - JESUS SAVIOR AND LORD

STEWARDS IN ACTION

101 East Delano Avenue
Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

Phone: 231-728-5490

Fax: 231-725-2642

E-mail: kcheathem@aol.com

www.stewardsinaction.com

Committed to the Excellence of
Word Living



SIA Corporation