



**I
HAVE
COME**



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year ??????

Is it?

Depends on what makes it the most wonderful time or what makes it not the most wonderful time.

For some:

- They are distracted with excessive partying or materialism
- It is an aching reminder of all that is wrong



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year ??????

‘Good place’

- Bills paid, family getting along, happy gathering
- One phone call / can change or alter that.....
 - Laid off
 - Health
 - Death
 - Harsh words
 - Etc...



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year ??????

‘Tough Place’

- Bills not paid, laid off
 - One phone call / can change or alter that.....
 - Job offer
 - Out of the blue financial gain (Help Richard Branson who is broken down on the side of the road...😊)
- Poor health
 - Test results come back good
 - New medicine discovered
- Etc....



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year ?????

Do circumstances rule?

Is the determiner of 'all is good' - based on my current circumstances?

Very precarious place to be.

Is there an alternate to circumstances?





I HAVE COME

**To Bring God's Presence
To Fulfill the Law
To Bring Total Deliverance
To Demand Total Submission**



I HAVE COME

To Bring Total Deliverance

John 10:1-18, 27-28

Pew Bible pg. 759

Backdrop to Jesus' Words

- Incredible miracle, healed man who was born blind
- Religious rulers have reviled and rejected:
 - the miracle
 - the man who was healed
 - Jesus
- Jesus is responding to the false oppressive leaders



The Enemy : False Religion / Devil

- Contrasts himself with the enemy
- Thieves & Robbers
 - Oppressive religious leaders
 - False Messiahs – false deliverers
 - False religion
 - False empty gospel less ‘Christianity’
 - Devil



The Enemy : False Religion / Devil

- Contrasts himself with the enemy
- Thieves & Robbers
 1. Steal
 2. Kill (slaughter, butcher)
 3. Destroy



The Enemy : False Religion / Devil

- The enemy blinds us with :
 - pain
 - anger
 - greed
 - overabundance
 - focusing on our circumstances



The Enemy : False Religion / Devil

- The enemy - false religion, devil, sin, are the source of all:
 - Disease
 - War
 - Suffering
 - Brokenness
 - Heartache
 - Loneliness
 - Loss



The Enemy : False Religion / Devil

- Are my current circumstances the determiner of how I view this time of year?
- The enemy is the master of circumstances



Jesus: The Door, The Good Shepherd

1. He was sent by the Father - cradle v 36
2. He lays down and takes up His life – cross v 17-18
3. Through Him we are:
 - ✓ Saved, eternal salvation v 9, 28
 - ✓ Secure - never perish v 28 (destroyed v 10) safe v 28
 - ✓ Needs are met v 9 (physical, emotional, spiritual)
 - ✓ Life is abundant v 10 (part now – full in eternity)
 - ✓ Intimate relationship with his followers v 3-5 , 14-15



Jesus: The Door, The Good Shepherd

- Are my current circumstances the determiner of how I view this time of year? (or any time)

Or

- Is Christ – The Door , The Shepherd (eternity) the determiner of how I view this time of year?
- Jesus is the master of eternity



Jesus: The Door, The Good Shepherd

- Spirit of Truth Church last week
- At least 175 present
 - Almost all poor struggling refugees
 - Many alone
 - Separated from families
 - Serious health concerns
 - Divorcees / depressed
 - Oppressed by oppressive Islamist regime that has persecuted them & instilled a culture of fear
 - Extremist Iranian government spies were present (a couple)



Jesus: The Door, The Good Shepherd

- Spirit of Truth Church last week
- 18 came forward to receive Christ!
 - One by one
 - Couples
 - Tears of pain
 - Tears of joy
 - Gripping hugs
 - Laughter



Jesus: The Door, The Good Shepherd

- Spirit of Truth Church last week
- 18 came forward to receive Christ!
- How will they view Christmas this year?
 - Are they any less poor?
 - Less a lone?
 - Less persecuted? (maybe more now)



Jesus: The Door, The Good Shepherd

- Their focus is on the wonderful Messiah Jesus Christ
- They have eternal life! Set free from the enemy!



Jesus: I have come to bring total deliverance!

- Circumstances are not the determiner of the follower of Jesus
 - Yes we may be in plenty
 - We may be in a good place
 - We may be in great pain , deeply grieved
- But He has come! The babe in the manger paid with His life to give us eternal life and an eternal relationship with Him





I HAVE COME

To Bring Total Deliverance

John 10:1-18, 27-28