

A CHRISTmas Carol & The Gifts Of God

" I have always striven in my writings to express the veneration for the life and lessons of our saviour...."

Charles Dickens

Scriptural References and Biblical Illusions of A CHRISTMAS CAROL

- ✓ Christmas Carol: original meaning is a song celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ
- ✓ Sections of the book are not called CHAPTERS but STAVES which means stanzas of a song.
- ✓ Quote: Scrooge had often heard it said that Marley had no bowels, but he had never believed it until now.' This refers to **I John 3:17**

I John 3:17

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

- ✓ Bob Cratchit: root word for Cratchit is 'cratch' old English word for 'creche' which is manger of baby Jesus.

Biblical Principles of A Christmas Carol

Scrooge {Selfishness}

Scrooge is a man so selfish that not even Christmas puts him in a good mood.

"What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough", says Ebenezer Scrooge to his nephew. To which Scrooge's nephew replies: "What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough".

Mark 8:36

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Past {Regret}

Scrooge regrets the mistakes of his past—even as he learns that they will haunt his future. The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge back to the pivotal time when he first chose the love of money over a life of love—a tragic day, in a past of regret.

Ecclesiastes 3:15

15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

"I wish," Scrooge muttered, putting his hand in his pocket, and looking about him, after drying his eyes with his cuff: "but it's too late now."

"What is the matter?" asked the Spirit.

"Nothing," said Scrooge. "Nothing. There was a boy singing a Christmas Carol at my door last night. I should like to have given him something: that's all."

The Ghost of Christmas Present {Repentance}

Scrooge repents of his cynical spirit as this Ghost shows him how Christmas is truly kept. On Christmas Day, the Cratchits prove that while poor in finances, they are rich in family. And Scrooge notes how well they love despite how badly he treats their father Bob. Finally, Scrooge is touched by Tiny Tim, who toasts to Scrooge's health even as his own fails him.

Luke 6:28

28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

II Corinthians 7:10

10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Ghost of Christmas Future {Salvation}

Scrooge crawls toward salvation as this Ghost foretells of not one but two deaths. And while Scrooge is saddened to see the demise of Tiny Tim, he is distraught to be the death that no one mourns because of the life he never fully lived. Thus, after facing his death, he is re-born into a new life—and everyone stands in awe at the salvation of Scrooge.

I Thessalonians 5:9

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Spirit!" he cried, tight clutching at its robe, "hear me. I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I must have been but for this intercourse. Why show me this, if I am past all hope?"

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!"

Colossians 3:10

10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

II Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Scrooge Keeps Christmas Well.

He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world. Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them; for he was wise enough to know that nothing ever happened on this globe, for good, at which some people did not have their fill of laughter in the outset; and knowing that such as these would be blind anyway, he thought it quite as well that they should wrinkle up their eyes in grins, as have the malady in less attractive forms. His own heart laughed: and that was quite enough for him. It was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge.

Scrooge first had to deal with REGRET {Ghost\Christmas Past}, then REGRET led to REPENTANCE {Ghost of Christmas Present} and REPENTANCE led to SALVATION. This is the SINNERS path as well.

The Devil and The Grinch

The devil and the grinch will come to steal your gifts...if you let them.

John 10:10

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

Gods Gifts:

During Christmas I picture instead of a tree; a cross and underneath and roundabout that cross I see many gifts wrapped in the sacrifice and tied with the resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Gift of His Son:

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Gods Gift of Grace:

Ephesians 2:8

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

Gift of Eternal Life:

John 4:10

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gift of the Holy Spirit: The Spirit of Truth

John 14:16

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Gift of Peace:

John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Gift of the Word:

John 17: 8,14

8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Gift of Glory:

John 17:22-23

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

"It came without ribbons, It came without tags, It came without packages, boxes or bags
He puzzled and puzzled till his puzzler was sore. Then he thought of something he
hadn't before. Maybe Christmas he thought doesn't come from a store, maybe Christmas
perhaps means a little bit more."

The Grinch

Our Lives Can Be A Gift To Others – {It's A Wonderful Life}

Frank Capra, who directed "It's a Wonderful Life", was asked years ago about the central message of his classic film. After thinking a few moments, Capra responded, "I believe the real message of "It's a Wonderful Life" is this: that under the sun, nothing is insignificant to God."

"All you can take with you is that which you gave away"

How did George's life impact the people around him?

"If it hadn't been for me, everyone would be better off." (George Bailey)

"Each man's life touches so many other lives." (Clarence to George after his mother doesn't recognize him)

What if George had never existed?

- Brother would be dead, which means he never saved the people on the troop transport ship.
- Wife would have ended up an old maid
- Town would be Pottersville instead, not Bedford Falls and would be dominated by the evil Mr. Potter
- His kids don't exist
- Mother is alone
- Violet not helped
- Uncle is a drunk
- Old Man Gower was not stopped from accidentally poisoning someone.

. . . Today, after some 50 years, I've heard the film called "an American cultural phenomenon." Well, maybe so, but it seems to me there is nothing phenomenal about the movie itself. It's simply about an ordinary man who discovers that living each ordinary day honorably, with faith in God and a selfless concern for others, can make for a *truly* wonderful life.

Matthew 6: 19-21

19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

It's A Wonderful Life in the Salvation, Peace, and Hope, of Jesus Christ. A Life in the power of the Holy Spirit. Which guides us in putting others ahead of ourselves, being merciful, and living a life of integrity. Focusing on the eternal treasures in Heaven.

Let Us Keep CHRISTmas Well {Celebrating the Gift From God}

Luke 2:8-11

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 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.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.