

# From Santa to Savior

## Luke 2:1-20



Pastor Ron Graff  
Sunday,  
Dec 2, 2007

*Beginning of the series: From Secular to Sacred*

### **Introduction**

The need to return to the real meaning of Christmas

**WE NEED TO EMPHASIZE THE SAVIOR INSTEAD OF SANTA  
DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.**

### ✦ THE SANTA CAUSE

☆ Origins in the Saint Nicholas Story

☆ Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, and other variations

☆ Modern Santa

✦ What is he like?

✦ What is the emphasis?

✦ What is the truth?

✦ What should we say?

## ✦ THE SAVIOR'S CAUSE

☆ A Baby In A Manger – Luke 2:1-20

☆ Fulfilled Prophecy

✦ Examples of prophecies

Born of a Virgin

Isaiah 7:14 – Matthew 1:18, 24-25

Son of God

Psalms 2:7 – Matthew 3:17

Family of David

Jeremiah 23:5 – Luke 3:23-31

Born in Bethlehem

Micah 5:2 – Matthew 2:1-5

Called Emmanuel (“God with us”)

Isaiah 7:14 – Matthew 1:23

✦ Impact of prophecy – Proof!

☆ The God-Man Philippians 2:5-11

**What should we do?**

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### Introduction

The need to return to the real meaning of Christmas

Today Christmas Vacation has been replaced by Winter Break.

“Merry Christmas” has been replaced by “Happy Holidays”

Christmas Giving has become Gross Materialism

The Christmas Tree has been replaced with the Holiday Tree – Political Correctness gone amuk

Worst of all, Children don't think much about Jesus, but they look for the coming of Santa Claus!

**WE NEED TO EMPHASIZE THE SAVIOR INSTEAD OF SANTA DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.**



THE SANTA CAUSE  
We need to avoid the extremes

“Santa is a lie”

I actually had cousins who went around the neighborhood telling other children that Santa was a Lie! Not good. Explain

The Other extreme:

When Virginia O'Hanlon, an 8-year-old girl from New York City, sent a letter addressed to the newspaper The Sun in 1897, she asked a very simple question: "Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?" In what must have been a surprise to her, the question was answered quite frankly. After calling out Virginia's "little friends" for doubting the existence of Santa Claus and being clouded by an age of skepticism, the writer of the article, Francis Pharcellus Church, gave his straightforward reply, "**Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.**"

<http://christmas.howstuffworks.com/santa-claus.htm>

☆ Origins in the Saint Nicholas Story

☆ Kris Kringle (“Christ Child”), Father Christmas (In Narnia, for example) and other variations

☆ Modern Santa

*Santa Claus* originated as a mispronunciation of Dutch *Sinterklaas*, which in turn is a contracted form of *Sint Nicolaas* (Saint Nicholas).

\* What is he like? Like Jesus but secular

<b>JESUS CHRIST: OUR LORD AND SAVIOR ACCORDING TO</b>	<b>SANTA CLAUS: THE COUNTERFEIT ACCORDING TO MYTH OF</b>
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<b>THE BIBLE</b>	<b>MEN</b>
1. Has white hair like wool (Rev 1:14)	1. Has white hair like wool
2. Has a beard (Isaiah 50:6)	2. Has a beard
3. Comes in red apparel Isaiah (63:1-2)	3. Comes in red apparel
4. Hour of His coming is a mystery  (Luke 12:40; Mark 13:33)	4. Hour of his coming is a mystery
5. Comes from the North where He lives (Ezekiel 1:4; Psalm 48:2)	5. Comes from the North where he lives: North Pole
6. Is a carpenter (Mark 6:3)	6. Is a toy carpenter
7. Comes as a thief in the night  (Matthew 24:43-44)	7. Comes as a thief in the night. Even gains entrance to homes as a thief.
8. Omnipotent -- all powerful (Rev 19:6)	8. Omnipotent -- can deliver all the toys of the world in one night
9. Omniscient -- knows all (Hebrews 4:13; 1 John 3:20)	9. Omniscient -- knows if you have been good or bad, for the entire year
10. Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10; Ephesians 4:6; John 3:13)	10. Omnipresent -- sees when you wake or sleep. Has to be everywhere at once to be able to deliver all the toys in one short night.
11. Ageless, eternal (Rev 1:8; 21:6)	11. Lives forever

12. Lives in men (1 Cor 3:16; 2 Cor 6:16-17)	12. Lives in the hearts of children
13. Giver of Gifts (Ephesians 4:8)	13. Giver of Gifts
14. Absolute Truth (John 14:6)	14. Absolute Fable - (1 Tim 1:4; 4:7; 2 Tim 4:4)
15. Sits on a throne (Rev 5:1; Heb 1:8)	15. Sits on a throne
16. We are told to boldly go to the throne of Grace for our needs (Heb 4:16)	16. Children are bidden to approach his throne to ask for anything they want
17. Commands children to obey parents	17. Tells children to obey parents
18. Wants little children to come to Him (Mark 10:14)	18. Bids children to come unto him
19. Judges (Rom 14:10; Rev 20:2)	19. Judges whether you were good or bad
20. Everlasting Father (Isa 9:6; Heb 12:2)	20. Father Christmas
21. Christ Child (Matt 1:23; Luke 2:11-12)	21. Kris Kringle (means christ child)
22. Worthy of Prayers and Worship (Rev 5:14 Hebrews 1:6)	22. Prayers and worship to "St. Nick" by children
23. Lord of Hosts (Mal 3:5; Isa 8:13; Psalms 24:10)	23. Lord over a host of elves - (In Druidic religion, elves are demons or tree spirits)
24. God says, "Ho, ho ..." (Zechariah 2:6)	24. Santa says, "Ho, ho, ho ..."
25. Prince of Peace, the	25. Symbol of World Peace, the

Image of God (Isa 9:6;

Hebrews 1:3)

image of the Christmas Season

<http://cuttingedge.org/NEWS/n1132.cfm>

\* What is the emphasis?

\* What is the truth?

\* What should we say?

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\* Examples of prophecies

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☆ The God-Man Philippians 2:5-11 Kenosis

Why Jesus is Better Than Santa Claus



Santa lives at the North Pole ...  
JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh ...  
JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year ...  
JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies ...  
JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited ...  
JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then  
enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa ...  
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap ...  
JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi  
little boy or girl,  
what's your name?" ...  
JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does  
He know our name, He knows  
our address too. He knows our history and future and  
He even knows how many  
hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly ...  
JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO ...  
JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry" ...  
JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for  
you."

Santa's little helpers make toys ...  
JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts,  
repairs broken homes and builds  
mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but ...  
JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree ...  
JESUS became our gift and died on a tree.

**What should we do?**