

**MESSAGE NOTES**  
**Emmanuel in the Mess**  
**THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF CHRISTMAS**  
Pastor Brian Miller

***Matthew 1** <sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

**HOW DO WE RESIST THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF CHRISTMAS?**

1. First and foremost, keep **CHRIST** in Christmas.

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6*

*"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law..." Galatians 4:4*

2. Remember that Jesus is the **GREATEST GIFT** ever given.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16 NKJV*

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23*

3. Consider holiday decorations as **POINTING TO JESUS**.

*"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." Colossians 3:1-2*

4. Shift from the seasonal hype to **HIS PRESENCE**.

*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14*

*\*All scripture in NIV unless specified*

**ACTION STEPS:**

Tell someone about Jesus this Christmas Season.

Invite someone to the Christmas Eve Service.