

“PASTOR GRINCH WILL NOT STEAL CHRISTMAS!”

“A Savior has been born to you, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

I am conflicted. Here I'm supposed to be writing an upbeat Christmas column (since Christmas is less than four weeks away), yet my evil alter-ego, Pastor Grinch, is trying to get out. What has Pastor Grinch fuming is all of the early Christmas music and decorations in the stores, “Black Friday” sales starting on Thanksgiving Day, the sappy, Christ-less programming that seeks to portray the “spirit of Christmas” while having no clue as to the true Source and Spirit of Christmas. Pastor Grinch wants to hurl, and wishes it would all just go away.

But then good Pastor Lueke comes forward and says: “Listen to all the Christmas music – the hymns and carols. Look at all the decorations and the beauty of brightly lighted trees and homes. Hurray! All the classic Christmas programs are on TV again, bringing back fond memories of childhood. Oh boy! Advent is here, and we have the opportunity to prepare for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Let's sing: ‘It's the most wonderful time of the year!’”

And Pastor Grinch just wants to hurl!

So, you see, I am conflicted. But what isn't conflicted, even with all the smarmy, Christ-less aspects of the season, is the Gospel itself. Whether people see it or not - whether they believe it or not – the fingerprints “of the Father's love begotten e'er the worlds began to be” are still here. Nothing changes the truth that Christ came into the world, born of the virgin Mary, “to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy.”

In a most marvelous mystery, God became man in the birth of Jesus Christ to bring about “peace on earth and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled.” Though millions may ignore the true meaning of Christmas, millions of others rejoice because “He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.”

So, Christmas is almost here. “Let us all together praise our God before His glorious throne; Today He opens heav'n again to give us His own Son, To give us His own Son”

Take that, Pastor Grinch!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Lueke