

Counting The Cost Of Christmas

Scripture: Philippians 3:7-8

Introduction

During the Christmas season people go scurrying about, rushing from store to store, buying presents for loved ones. This process involves not only selecting the right gift for the right person, but also determining whether or not the budget will allow this extravaganza and still leave money for the presents which remain to be bought.

On that first Christmas day, God had to count the cost of his great gift. He selected the most expensive gift he could afford, and gave it to a depraved humanity.

I. It cost the Father his Son

John 3 :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.

- A. Knowing that his Son must be abused
- B. Knowing that their fellowship would be broken
- C. Knowing that his Son must die

II. It cost the Son his glory, his honor, his life

Philippians 2:7-8 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- A. From a palace to a manger
- B. From being adored by angels to being spat upon by a mob and crucified between two thieves
- C. From perfect fellowship with the Father to "My God, My God, Why has thou forsaken me?"

III. It has cost men personal sacrifice, even their lives

Philippians 3:7-8a But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:

- A. Paul's example
- B. J. W. Tucker--martyred in Simba rebellion in the Congo
- C. Jim Elliott- martyred by Aucas in Ecuador

Conclusion

Have you counted the cost of Christmas? Are you expecting too much for too little?