



CELEBRATE THE INCARNATION

A DOCTRINE WORTH JOYFULLY COMMEMORATING

ESTHER 9:20-23

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Compass Bible Church • December 4 & 5, 2021 • Christmas at Compass • Msg. 21-41

Esther 9:20 And Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, **21** obliging them to keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year, **22** as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor. **23** So the Jews accepted what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them. (ESV)

1. Sanction _____ (vv.20-23)

2. Aim _____ (v.22a)

3. Engage _____ (v.22b)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others. For more information about small groups at Compass Bible Church that utilize these questions as the basis for their weekly discussion, please call the church office at (949) 540-0699 or email us at SmallGroups@CompassChurch.org.

1. Read **Psalm 64:10** and **Psalm 32:10-11**. What are some of the excuses we Christians use for failing to take these kinds of verses seriously?
2. Read **Luke 1:68-79**. How does this perspective about the first coming of Christ (and John, his forerunner) challenge your perspective on the magnitude of what has already taken place at the incarnation? How can that impact your attitude and perspective more profoundly and more often?
3. Read **Nehemiah 8:9-12**. Why are special days in which we purpose to sincerely rejoice in God's redemptive work helpful in affecting our lives in between holidays?
4. Read **2 Corinthians 9:7-14**. Why does it make sense that Christians are (and should always be) more generous than the average non-Christian?
5. Read **Leviticus 23:39-41**. What will you specifically do to increase and enhance your celebration of Christ this Christmas?

*This Week's
Bible Reading Schedule*

December 4th
Dan.3-4 & 1Jn.3

December 5th
Dan.5-6 & 1Jn.4

December 6th
Dan.7-8 & 1Jn.5

December 7th
Dan.9-10 & 2Jn.

December 8th
Dan.11-12 & 3Jn.

December 9th
Hos.1-4 & Jude

December 10th
Hos.5-8 & Rev.1

December 11th
Hos.9-11 & Rev.2

Streaming of both the audio and video of today's sermon is available on the Compass website (CompassChurch.org). The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 17-37 – **Principles from God's Ancient Celebration**
Msg. 19-41 – **Christmas Generosity**
Msg. 14-38 – **A Joyful December**
Msg. 20-01 – **Proclaiming Christ's Power**
Msg. 08-37 – **What's the Deal with Saint Nicholas?**
Msg. 16-40 – **Pleasing God on Christmas Day**
Msg. 11-07 – **Excelling in Generosity**

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Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Alcorn, Randy. **The Treasure Principle**. Multnomah Books, 2001.
Bunyan, John. **All Loves Excelling**. Banner of Truth, 1998.
Collins, Ace. **Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas**. Zondervan, 2003.
Getz, Gene. **Rich in Every Way: Everything God Says About Money & Possessions**. Howard Books, 2010.
Piper, Noel. **Treasuring God in Our Traditions**. Crossway Books, 2007.
Priolo, Lou. **Selfishness: From Loving Yourself to Loving Your Neighbor**. P & R Publishing, 2010.
Raine, Barbara. **Thanksgiving: A Time to Remember**. Crossway Books, 2003.
Rose Publishing. **Bible Promises of Hope and Courage** [Pamphlet]. Rose Publishing, Inc., 2006.
Smith, Christian. **Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don't Give Away More Money**. Oxford Press, 2008.
Spurgeon, Charles. **Good Tidings of Great Joy: A Collection of Christmas Sermons**. GLH Publishing, 2017.
Stiegemeyer, Julie. **Saint Nicholas: The Real Story of the Christmas Legend**. [Children's book] Concordia Pub., 2003.
Swindoll, Charles. **Laugh Again**. Word Publishing, 1991.
Thrasher, Bill & Penny. **Putting God Back in the Holidays**. Moody Publishers, 2010.
Wiersbe, Warren W. **Prayer, Praise & Promises: A Daily Walk through the Psalms**. Baker Books, 2013.