

## Holidays and Deceptions

Christmas is fast approaching, and with it should be thoughts of peace, love and family. As a child, the holiday season brought on so many special memories. I can remember admiring the neighborhood decorations, and knowing that they marked the beginning of my favorite time of the year. My family had a tradition of going to downtown San Antonio to see the beautiful nativity display, as well as to Joske's to see the new toys and take our photo with Santa. It was a time for friends and families everywhere to draw closer together.

A few years back, my heart was broken as I consider the state of our country. During what should have been a time of joy and comfort, most of us were feeling anything but peaceful. With the tragedy that occurred in San Bernardino, our nation was in full sorrow and uneasiness. Christians were being targeted by those who don't agree with our faith, and we must be careful not to fall into their snares. Remember what the apostle Paul warned the Colossians about in **Colossians 2:8 (NKJV)**:

***Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.***

Christians should believe in peace, but we cannot be ignorant to what is going on in the world. We have to be aware of those meaning to do us both physical and spiritual harm. We should show love to everyone, but let us also be wise. Difficult times are upon us and though we aspire for peace, not everyone around us shares that goal. As parents and grandparents, we must make decisions that protect our families. Consider the words in **Matthew 10:16 (NKJV)**:

***"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.***

Adrian

Lesson Title: Will you Go Save Someone?

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:18-20

**There will not be a bulletin December 2 and 9 so here are the December Birthdays.**

**Happy December Birthdays to:**

Juana Rippstine	12/8
Margaret Heinesh	12/13
Irma Reynolds	12/20
Sarai Rippstine	12/21
Jack Heinesh	12/25
Hailey Rippstine	12/29