

Tis the Season: Socially Unacceptable
Pastor Kevin Taylor
Sunday, December 13, 2020

- What is your favorite Christmas carol and why?
- What is your favorite socially unacceptable Christmas tradition?
- What is your favorite Christmas greeting?

What's Behind the Lyrics?

1. *O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.*

Read Luke 2:8.

- Are you a night owl or an early bird?
- Do you prefer sunrises or sunsets?
- What do you think the meaning of this lyric is?
- What does the author mean by a holy night?
- What was so special about this birth?
- What are some of the ways it has become socially unacceptable to celebrate the birth of our Savior at Christmas?

2. *Long lay the world in sin and error pining. 'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.*

Read Genesis 3:17-18.

- What command did God give Adam and Eve in the Garden?
- How does the world lay in sin and error pining?
- What was the result of man's sin?
- What did Jesus' arrival on the scene represent to mankind?
- How did Jesus' appearance cause the soul of man to feel its worth?

Read Galatians 3:14.

- How has God given worth to your soul?

3. *A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

- What is a thrill of hope?

Read Colossians 1:27.

- Why would that holy night be only a thrill of hope?
- What is our ultimate hope?
- What do you think that “Yonder breaks a new glorious morn” means?
- What is the exact moment of that dawning morning?
- Discuss Billy Graham’s quote, “For the believer there is hope beyond the grave, because Jesus Christ has opened the door to heaven for us by His death and resurrection.”
- Is there any dead thing in your life that needs hope declared over it?

4. *Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!*

- How did the angels respond to the appearance of the angel?
- What did the shepherds do after the heavenly hosts disappeared?
- What was their finding?
- How did they respond?

Read Luke 2: 20.

- Did the shepherds have a choice in the matter?

Read Philippians 2:10-11.

- Do we have a choice in how we respond to Jesus?
- Why is it socially unacceptable to be a worshipper of Jesus in our culture?

5. *Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace.*

- Why was this carol banned by the French church?
- How was this not a demonstration of genuine love?
- What would be a similar situation in today’s church culture?

Read John 13:34-35.

- How has the good news of Jesus brought miracle/peace into your life?