



**LET'S CHAT!**  
with Pastor D

**SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH** **December 21, 2019**

Excuse me for a moment while I express my adoration for Christmas. Just before you judge me as being ignorant. I am aware that December 25 is not the actual birthday of Christ and has pagan roots. My adoration is not because of gifts. I enjoy gifts, but I love giving more than receiving. It's also not about the trees, lights or decorations. Who wants to be on a ladder in January taking them down?

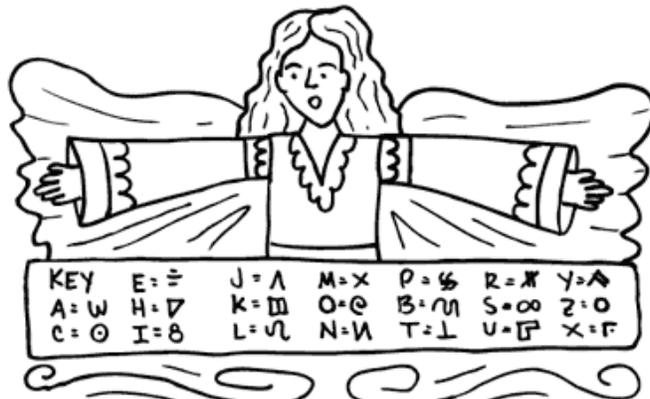
I am aware that many Christians vehemently despise Christmas. Some castigate and chastise anyone who dares celebrate the "pagan holiday." Often relegating those who mentions it as "embracers of Babylon" who are void of truth. I adore Christmas for the same reasons you might too. The smell of baked treats and enticing, delicious, and mouth-watering dishes fill the air within homes. People who are usually mean and miserable, find themselves smiling.

However, one reason surpasses the food or the cheerful demeanor of strangers. It's the only time of year that the name of Christ is publicly shared without apology. Stores are filled with non-religious shoppers humming unknowingly to songs of Christ. Stores stock items that remind the world of the Saviour's birth. Christ declared, "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me."

December presents the greatest opportunity for Christians to promote the name of Jesus. We can't be good stewards if we miss the chance to share Christ to a dying world, and shun the season.



What message did the angel give to Mary?



KEY	E=≡	J=Λ	M=X	P=⊕	R=⊗	Y=▲
A=W	H=∇	K=⊞	O=⊙	B=∩	S=∞	Z=⊘
C=⊖	I=⊖	L=∩	N=∩	T=⊥	U=⊥	X=⊥

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# Merry Christmas

## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

The number one way to keep Jesus Christ in your Christmas celebrations is to have him present in your daily life. Keeping Christ in Christmas means daily revealing the character, love and spirit of Christ that dwells in you, by allowing these traits to shine through your actions. Here are simple ways:

1. Give God one very special gift just from you to Him. Let this gift be something personal that no one else needs to know about. Maybe your gift will be to forgive someone you've needed to forgive for a long time or to commit to spending time with God daily.
2. Set aside a special time to read the Christmas story in Luke 1:5-56 through 2:1-20.
3. Set up a nativity scene in your home.
4. Plan a project of good will this Christmas. Adopt a single mom for Christmas or do home repairs for an elderly neighbor. Find someone with a genuine need and involve your whole family.
5. Take a group Christmas caroling in a nursing home or a children's hospital.
6. Give a surprise gift of service to each member of your family. Giving an unexpected gift of service to members of your family demonstrates Christ-like love and service. Make it personal and meaningful.
7. Set aside a time of family devotions on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning.
8. Attend a Christmas Eve or Christmas morning church service together with your family.
9. Send Christmas cards that convey a spiritual message.
10. Write a Christmas letter to a missionary.

Source: [www.learnreligions.com](http://www.learnreligions.com). Fairchild, Mary. June 25, 2019.

## TWEEN GIFT IDEAS

Not sure what to get your tween this Christmas, how 'bout giving them something to encourage their personal walk with Christ?

**ESV Journaling Bible** — designed with a place to write notes and thoughts.

**Jesus Strong Hoodie** — with Philippians 4:13 printed on a high-quality hoodie meant to last.

**Wholehearted: A Coloring Book Devotional** — contains 30 days of guided study, designed for the reader to engage creatively and beautifully with the Scripture.

**A Young Man's Guide to Making Right Choices (also one for young women)** — book by Jim George, guiding young people to make right choices and think carefully about decisions.

**Teen to Teen: 365 Daily Devotions by Teen Guys for Teen Guys (also one for girls)** — what more encouraging way to gain perspective than by talking to someone who has been there, especially when that someone is one of your peers. This devotional creates a safe, social atmosphere for teens to learn that they are not alone and that God is at work in their lives.

