



FAMILY STUDY

A Truthopolis Christmas Carol



Learn More About our Ministries, Products and Resources at www.truthquest.net



"A Truthopolis Christmas Carol"

Most all of us have heard the charming story of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly old crank who hates Christmas, is transformed into a generous new man who spreads the spirit and joy of Christmas to all. This transformation happens as a result of seeing his past, his present condition, and his possible future. The charm of the story is in seeing this man's redemption to a new life of joy.

Most everyone enjoys hearing this tale at Christmas, but have you ever considered that this tale can also remind us to look at our lives to see where we are headed? Is there not a bit of Scrooge in all of us? Oh, we may not be miserly, grumpy old men, but all of us will one day have to give an account for how we have lived our lives. So with this in mind, we present you "A Christmas Carol Gospel."

The Message of the Spirit of Christmas Past

In "A Christmas Carol", Scrooge is visited by a spirit who shows him pictures of his past. What is our past? Just as the Spirit of Christmas Past showed Scrooge visions from his past, we have four visions to share with you from the past.

Vision 1: The Fall of Man

All of humanity was plummeted into darkness and cursed because of Adam and Eve's choice to rebel against God. And lest you be too hard on Adam and Eve, ask yourself what you would have done if you had been in their place. That one act of rebellion has transformed us all into sinners needing a Savior.

Genesis 3 Isaiah 53:6 Romans 5:12 1 Corinthians 15:22

Vision 2: The Grace of God

Although humanity deserved to be wiped off the face of the earth, God did not leave us without hope. In His infinite mercy, God made a way for us. God sent His Son to be our Savior.

Luke 2:1-20 John 1:1-14 John 3:16 Philippians 2:5-11

Vision 3: Born to Die

While at Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior, let us not forget that He did not remain a baby. He came to die for us and to take the punishment that we deserve for our rebellion against God.

Isaiah 53:3-5 Romans 5:6-8 2 Corinthians 5:21 1 Peter 2:21-24

Vision 4: A Risen Savior

Death itself was not enough to save us. Jesus had to DEFEAT death. So three days after Jesus died, He rose again. His death and resurrection have now made a way for our past to be changed.

Luke 22:39-24:12 John 11:25-26 John 18:20 John 14:19
Romans 6:4-7 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

The Message of the Spirit of Christmas Present

Ebenezer Scrooge saw his past, then he saw his present condition. It was a lonely existence, where he was mocked and despised by his fellow man

because of his actions. We too must look at our present condition to see what must be done to achieve redemption. Presently, we are either dead in our sins, or we are alive in Christ awaiting His return. Let us see the two present conditions of man.

Vision 1: Dead Men Walking

Apart from Jesus, all of us are lost. We are cursed by sin and condemned to death. We are dead men walking until we accept Christ's gift of salvation. There is no one who is good enough to earn his way to heaven. If that were possible, it would not have been necessary for Christ to die. Those who refuse Christ will remain in their sins and will die an eternal death of suffering.

Isaiah 53:6 Isaiah 64:6-7 Romans 3:23 Romans 6:23

Vision 2: Alive in Christ

Those who have chosen to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior and have given their lives to Him are NOT dead men walking; they're ALIVE in Christ! They have been made new. Although they still struggle with sin, they are free from the penalty of sin. Praise God!

John 8:34-36 Romans 3:22-24 Colossians 2:13-15 1 Peter 1:3-4

The Message of the Spirit of Christmas Future

The Spirit of Christmas Future visited Scrooge with a frightening reality of the consequences of his choices. As a result, Ebenezer begged for another chance to change. As we discussed above, all of us are either dead in our sins or alive in Christ. Those who are in Christ have a great hope and future. Those who are dead in their sins have only torment to look forward to.

Vision 1: The Future for the Dead in Sin

Those who refuse Christ's gift of salvation have eternal life as well, but it is an existence of torment and regret. For all eternity, they will spend their existence in hell, separated from God as the consequence for their sins, rather than having that punishment paid by Christ.

Matthew 25:41-46 Luke 16:19-26 Revelation 20:11-14

Vision 2: The Blessed Hope of Those in Christ

All who have received Christ will one day be reunited with Him. We will spend eternity in heaven, with God, in a joyous existence. What a day of rejoicing that will be!

John 14:1-3 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 Revelation 21:1-5

The Message of Christmas

All of us have a choice. Ebenezer Scrooge chose to change his life for the better. You've also been given visions of Christmas and its true meaning. You must make a choice similar to the choice Scrooge was faced with. But unlike Scrooge in the fictional tale of "A Christmas Carol," it is only JESUS who can change your life and take you off the path to destruction. Will you remain as you are and suffer the consequences, or will you turn and follow Christ? The choice is yours.

May this be a Christmas of new life. May this be the year of change. May this year be the year you allow God to change and bless your life. As in the words of Tiny Tim from the Christmas Carol, "God bless us, everyone!"