

The Enemies of Christmas

Overcoming What Steals the Wonder

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Sermon Preparation Kit

A four-week pastoral guide exploring Consumerism, Busyness, Substitution, and Isolation.

Week 1: Consumerism - The Empty Cart

Biblical References

- **Matthew 6:19-21** - "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth..."
- **Luke 12:15** - "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."
- **Isaiah 55:1-2** - "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!"

Suggested Preface for the Series

When looking at the deeper themes of the Advent season, the true "enemies" of Christmas aren't necessarily obvious antagonists, but rather subtle cultural undercurrents that distract from the season's core message. Over the next four weeks, we will expose the primary cultural habits that war against the spirit of Christmas. We begin today with **Consumerism**—the relentless drive that shifts our focus from receiving a divine gift to the anxiety of material acquisition.

Main Objectives of the Sermon

- To expose the cultural ill that joy and peace can be purchased or accumulated.
- To dismantle the "transactional" nature of holiday relationships and restore the focus to unmerited grace.
- To challenge the congregation to lay down the heavy ledger of holiday consumerism and open their hands to the free gift of Christ.

Research & Study References

- **Theological Focus:** The contrast between transactional cultural giving and the unmerited, free grace of the Incarnation.
- **Cultural Exegesis:** Studies on holiday spending anxiety, debt accumulation, and how material focus creates spiritual emptiness.