



Midweek Meditation



"She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

It's hard for us to imagine a world without the celebration of Christmas. But there was a time when it fell by the wayside. When Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans came to power in England in 1647, the celebration of Christmas and singing carols was stopped. How was it re-popularized? A line in Andy Williams' classic tune, "*The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*" is a clue. Williams sings about "*scary ghost stories*." In Europe, dating back to Medieval times, tales of the spooky and supernatural were part and parcel of the celebration of Christmas. In 1843, the most famous ghost story of all, Charles Dickens' "*A Christmas Carol*," was instrumental in bringing back the celebration of Christmas.

While the world, in parts of Europe, dismissed Christmas, and then came back to it, the church continued to kneel before the manger and worship our newborn King. For us who are Christians, Christmas is not tied to ghost stories, classic novels, or songs we hear in December. Christmas is about Jesus. We can enjoy watching Scrooge on television, listening to Andy Williams sing, and taking part in "worldly" Christmas traditions. Yet, as we do these things, our focus remains on Christ who came to be our Savior.

Lord Jesus, as I prepare for Christmas, keep my focus upon the good news that You came to save me, a sinner, from my sins. Amen.