

# SEASONS GREETINGS

Dear Dupont Park Family:

At a time when America faces one of its most daunting economic challenges, market analysts report Americans are spending more this year, regardless of already mounting personal debt.

Consumer spending accounts for 70% of our unprecedented annual economy, the vast majority of that spending occurs during the Christmas holiday season.

What a wonder to the world it would be, if America's professed Christians were willing to sacrifice even a minute fraction of such budget stretching for the cause of Christ, if but on *his celebrated birthday*? The trustees of the treasury of the house of God would have to convene regular councils to ask heaven's guidance as to know how to best steward the lavish outflow of funds. The potential to spread the gospel message, sustain Christian missions, and to bolster up humanitarian outreach would be given superlative wings.

The great capitalist stake holders of our nation make no apologies about the fact that their brightest hopes for this Christmas centers around maintaining America's massive consumer spending engine.

Market predictions, product consumption, indulgence, and the incessant adoration of the mystical Santa idol, are put forth as the essence of the Christmas holiday spirit.

If one compares the spending practices of American Christians with non-professed Christians, we notice little distinction. The vast majority of Christians in the Western World today, have succumb to the seductive amalgamation of Christianity and pagan traditions exploited for capitalism's bottom-line, to ensure that the shine of materialism retain her adherents, and that her "profits" remain demigods.

As innocuous as the blending of the gospel accounts with socioeconomic gains and materialistic consumption may seem, if it so entangles us in inordinate debt that Christian stewardship is neglected, the supremacy of Christ as LORD is obscured, and the deeper meaning of the first and second advents of Christ are overshadowed, it becomes no more

than another secular festival, completely bereft of the true spirit of Christ exemplified by His "*Self-Emptying*".

On this our third Christmas holiday together, I want to take this opportunity to remind us that contrary to the world's focus during Christmas time, the church anticipates an irrevocable link between the first and second comings of Christ.

The proclamation of this truth is the all encompassing reason for which the church exists. We have been "called-out" to commit every resource at our disposal to "Tell The World" the good-news that the birth of Christ was only the beginning of the story, the end goal is his glorious second return. This truth is to be kept before the Christian at Christmas and all year long.

The closer we get to the inevitable second coming of Christ, the more stealthy the enemy will become in designing innumerable inventions and distractions to rob us of probation's fleeting hours, and to silence every warning pointing to the imminent appearing.

The archenemy of Christ is determined that the rays of hope and truth embodied in the "**Christ-Event**" will never reach the hearts and minds of the inhabitants of our benighted world.

Yet, despite all the devil's best efforts to obstruct the "[Son] of righteousness from arising with healing in his wings", mission reports testify, the earth is being "filled with the knowledge of the Lord".

Christ's final intervention in human history alone will guarantee that "Christmas" for which the world has been longing since the first leaf weathered and fell, the restoration of Eden, even more gloriously restored than at the first creation!

As we stand on the brink of a new year, with all of its untried possibilities for fresh beginnings and greater faithfulness to the Lord. We invite every member of Dupont to personally stand up and be counted as a serious partner in the ministry of Christ.

We wish you a joy filled Christmas and a God honoring New Year!

Pastor Ferguson, Shereen, J'Mae, Simeon, & Seth