

A close-up photograph of a gift wrapped in brown kraft paper. A vibrant red ribbon is tied around the gift in a large, decorative bow. A rectangular, light-brown paper tag is attached to the ribbon, featuring the text "UNWRAPPING CHRISTMAS". The word "UNWRAPPING" is in a simple, white, sans-serif font, while "CHRISTMAS" is in a larger, bold, red font with a sparkling, glitter-like texture. The gift is placed on a dark, rustic wooden surface. To the left of the gift, there is a small, out-of-focus sprig of greenery with white, snow-like or frost-like decorations. The lighting is soft and directional, highlighting the textures of the paper, ribbon, and wood.

UNWRAPPING
CHRISTMAS

UNWRAPPING
CHRISTMAS

**Unwrapping Christmas
in your life.**

UNWRAPPING
CHRISTMAS

**Unwrapping Christmas
in your life.**

**Unwrapping Christ
in your life.**

UNWRAPPING
CHRISTMAS

**What story is your Christmas
experience telling?**

UNWRAPPING
CHRISTMAS

The Cutesy Commercialism Christmas Experience

Cutesy Commercialism Christmas



UNWRAPPING
CHRISTMAS

The Cutesy Commercialism Christmas Experience

When we look for joy and hope in this story, we are looking in the **wrong place.**

Matthew 6:19-21, 24

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

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When we look for joy and hope in this story, we are looking in the **wrong place.**

When we look for joy and hope in this story, we are looking in the **wrong way.**

Ecclesiastes 2:9-11

“⁹ So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. ¹⁰ And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. ¹¹ Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.”

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UNWRAPPING
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The Calloused and Cynical Christmas Experience



The Calloused and Cynical Christmas Experience



The Calloused and Cynical Christmas

“I think there must be something wrong with me, Linus. Christmas is coming, but I'm not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel. I just don't understand Christmas, I guess. I like getting presents, and sending Christmas cards, and decorating trees and all that, but I'm still not happy. I always end up feeling depressed.”

“I almost wish there weren't a holiday season. I know nobody likes me. Why do we have to have a holiday season to emphasize it?”

- Charlie Brown

The Calloused and Cynical Christmas Experience

Disillusionment

Ezekiel 36:26

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

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The Calloused and Cynical Christmas Experience

Painful Circumstances

1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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1 Peter 1:3-9

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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**True and lasting joy will only
be found when we seek a
Christ-centered Christmas.**

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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