"LITTLE CHILDREN, KEEP YOURSELVES FROM IDOLS." 1 JOHN 5:21

I have titled my sermon today: "Little children, keep yourselves from idols," 1 John 5:21. We have reached that elevated in evil week in the year when the entire world around us is rushing about "mad upon their idols." Jeremiah 50:38. They are greatly affected by, and much devoted to, Christmas; they are superstitiously mad upon the idols associated with this paganism: or, "they glory in them" as the Targum, Vulgate Latin version renders the words; they praise and extol them as true gods. But the commandment of the Lord as found in Leviticus 19:4, says: "Turn ye not unto idols...: I am the LORD your God." You are not to turn from the only true and living God to them that are not gods. "[A]n idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one," 1 Corinthians 8:4, because there can be no representation of the invisible God. 1 Timothy 1:17: "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen." John Gill, on Jeremiah 50:38 says: "An idol is of no worth and value, of no consequence and importance, of no avail and usefulness to its devotees; wherefore to turn from the true God to such as these is the greatest stupidity, as well as wickedness: or "look not" at them for help or assistance, for they are not able to give it: and to look at them so as to view them attentively, and consider their likeness, the Jews say is forbidden; and even in the heart and mind, as Aben Ezra observes, to have respect unto them was not right; or in the thoughts, as Gersom: ... I [am] the Lord, your God; who only is to be worshipped, and who has forbid the making and worshipping any image, ... and who will therefore resent idolatry of every sort, and punish for it." Idolatry is one of the causes for the wrath of God coming on the children of disobedience, as described in Colossians 3:5-6. John Calvin, in his exposition of Exodus 34:17 ("Thou shalt make thee no molten gods") explains why it is great offense to turn to these idols and not keep yourselves from these idols, when he says "that God is insulted when He is clothed in a corporeal image. ... [N]ot that unbelievers thought that the Deity was included in the corruptible material, but because they imagined that it was nearer to them, if some earthly symbol of its presence were standing before their eyes. In this sense, they called the images of the gods their gods; because they thought they could not ascend to the heights in which the Deity dwelt, unless they mounted by these earthly aids. ... He is despoiled of His due honor, whenever men devise anything earthly or carnal respecting Him." Can you say, "The Roman Catholic church," boys and girls? John 4:24: "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." And that's putting the best gloss on it for these filthy buggers: that their idol worship is in the name of religion. In truth they participate in this Christmas crap—as they do most of their idolatry--as a gateway drug, if you will, to engage in all sorts of filthy sin. Check out the context of Colossians 3:6: "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." (Colossians 3:5-6).

For 60 years Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, has labored in the Vineyard of the Lord (Isaiah 1:8), assigned to this nation, by the grace of God, in the defence and confirmation of the Gospel

(Philippians 1:7); contending earnestly for the faith—that is, the body of divinely revealed truth—that was once and for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3); believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets (Acts 24:14); and, testifying both to the Jews and also to the Gentiles: repentance towards God and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21).

Westboro Baptist Church can fairly be characterized as an Old School Baptist church. In the early years of this country virtually all Baptist Churches were Old School Baptist churches. The name, Old School Baptists, was applied to them about 250 years ago when Sunday Schools and Theological Schools, and Bible Schools began to be established in this country. These old Baptists rejected such inventions of men and preached against them with vigor. They took the position that only the church was established by Jesus Christ. Not the Sunday school; not the Theological Seminary; not the Bible School. They roundly condemned Sunday Schools as being extra-scriptural and unscriptural. If they could not find a doctrine or practice clearly set out in the Bible, they condemned it as being from the Devil.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18. "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:21. And, "to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God." Ephesians 3:10. "And [Christ] is the head of His body, the church." Colossians 1:18. This sampling of verses demonstrates that wherever you find organized Christianity in the New Testament you find it in the form of a properly established and orderly functioning New Testament Church and in no other form. Certainly not in the form of a Sunday School; and, certainly not in the form of a Theological Seminary or a Bible College; or any of the other of the myriads of so-called schools which are of human origin established to teach and preach religion during the last 250 years.

Christ said, "I build my church;" not my Sunday school; not my Theological Seminary. Matthew 16:18. His glory is in His Church. Not a human organization like a Sunday school or a Theological Seminary. Ephesians 3:21. The manifold wisdom of God is made known by the Church, not by the Sunday school or the Theological Seminary. Ephesians 3:10. And, Christ is the head of his body, the Church; not his body, the Sunday school, or his body, the Theological Seminary. Colossians 1:18.

Therefore, when these strange new schools began to proliferate about 250 years ago in this country, the old Baptists took a dim view of them. They said we do not find these new schools provided for in the scriptures. We have an old school, which is the only teaching institution established by Christ in the earth, and it is called the church, "the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15. This old school is good enough for us. We reject all the new schools in favor of this old school. And, hence, they came to be called Old School Baptists.

It is a matter of the integrity of the word of God. You cannot twist the scriptures to suit your wicked will. This is a matter of the integrity and exclusivity of the Church that Jesus built. "One thing," said David, "have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD." (Emphasis supplied). Psalm 27:4-6. What is the immediate context of the expression of David's one desire? "« A Psalm of David. » The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident." Psalm 27:1-3. This was the confidence of David: that he desired this one thing. Therefore, I find it altogether foreign, contrary to sound doctrine, and reprehensible for anyone to articulate any other doctrine or practice like a recent correspondent from England to our brother, Samuel, of which he told us earlier this week. Listen to what we say about this people: it is deadly serious.

You are a rational creature, friend. Like David you too have a solemn primary duty in life that supersedes every other duty that one desire that drives the train and that is to find the house of God and dwell there all the days of your life. You must above all else in your brief career on this earth determine for yourself and at your everlasting peril where God meets with his people on earth. You must search and find the place that God has chosen wherein to put his name. Deuteronomy 12:5. And, "unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee." Deuteronomy 12:5-7. Otherwise, you are living your life as a horse or a mule which have no understanding. "Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle." Psalm 32:9. And, if you continue in this path you are nothing other than these: "as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, who speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, ... sporting themselves with their own deceivings ... having eyes full of adultery [and sodomy], and that cannot cease from sin; ... cursed children." (2 Peter 2:12-14).

These are Bible descriptions of the overwhelming majority of this world's population. You are drifting through life like some horse or mule, like some dumb brute beast so far as a vital interest in and knowledge of the things of God are concerned. You have some half-hearted voodoo religion presided

over by some wimp of a priest or a preacher, who is just as ignorant as you are about the truth of God in the earth, and who is probably a homosexual, a fornicator, an idolater, or all three. And your level of genuine respect for that witch doctor you call your minister is about as low as it can get and allow you to still maintain a scintilla of belief in your own sanity and self-respect. And, you are in the midnight darkness of ignorance and superstition.

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20. "He that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully." Jeremiah 23:28. "But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" Matthew 15:3.

You are stumbling through life in a religious fog. Your thoughts are too low and too human. You like Christmas because Santa Clause suits your faulty notion of how you think God ought to be; a kind of grandfatherly-old-gentleman who is going to somehow let you muddle through life and when you die take you to some indistinct hazy place or state of existence called heaven. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Psalm 14:1. Psalm 50:21 is the verse that I believe helps identify what's going on here with this Christmas delusion: "These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; **thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself**: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes." (Emphasis supplied). What are those things he refers to here? Context is very important. Here are the things they had done: "Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee. When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers. Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit. Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son." Psalm 50:17-20.

You have made lies your refuge and under falsehood you have hid yourself. Isaiah 28:15. You do not treat any other serious matter in life in the contemptuous fashion in which you treat the Bible and religion, or you would be dead within a couple of weeks. And you do not treat any other serious writing in the same dumb way you treat the word of God or you would be in jail within a week. You think you can insult God Almighty by your careless, silly approach to the eternal destiny of your never-dying soul, that you can give the Bible a lick and a promise, that you can leave the grave issues of life and death and salvation and eternity to some money-grubbing pompous ass of a preacher or priest who wears a dress and who is obviously a scumbag. I have Bible for that label: scumbag. When Jeroboam set up his false religious system in Israel—the official worship of the golden calves religion--this was the qualification of the religious leaders of that anti-Christ racket: 1 Kings 13:33: "After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places." (Emphasis supplied) I believe the Holy Spirit just called Jeroboam a scumbag. Let's be honest: the freaks

that make up the religious leadership in this country, from top to bottom, are made of the "lowest of the people." This is deadly serious business. Read the next verse in 1 Kings 13:34: "And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth." And much worse, this was the major step towards the total destruction of the 10 northern tribes of Israel. Look it up and search it out, friends.

"Judgment also will I lay to the line, [sayeth the Lord] and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand." Isaiah 28:17-18.

In the days of Henry VIII of England, he had a surgeon general, named Dr. Thomas Linacre, a famous physician. This was not long after the development of the printing press and the widespread printing and distribution of the Bible. Dr. Linacre got a hold of a copy of the New Testament, and read it. Thereupon, he announced to the Court of King Henry VIII: "either this book is not true or we are not Christians." [Quoted in Hislop's "The Two Babylons," published December 1857]. Friend, if you would take the trouble, for the first time in your pitiful life, to seriously undertake an unbiased study of the scriptures, you would reach the same conclusion: either the Bible is not true or you are not a Christian. You cannot in reason leave the vital interests of your soul to others, especially to these dumb dog (Isaiah 56:10) witch doctors (Isaiah 8:19) who masquerade as preachers and priests. They are all thieves and robbers and hirelings. John 10:1, 12. You need to wake up and smell the coffee. (That's an idiom which means: become aware of the situation and do something about it before it's too late). They care zero for your soul. David indeed cried out: "No man cared for my soul." Psalm 142:4. "I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul. I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living." Psalm 142:4-5.

In the final analysis, friend, it is between you and God Almighty. "For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:30-31. In the final analysis, no man cares for your soul. "For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." Hebrews 2:2-3. John Gill, a Baptist preacher in England (1697-1772) who wrote an exhaustive exposition of every verse in the whole Bible, says here: "[I]t is a "great" salvation; the Gospel which reveals it is great, for the author of it is Christ; it has been confirmed by miracles, and attended with great success; and has in it great things, great mysteries, and exceeding great and precious promises: and the salvation which it declares is great; it is the produce of great wisdom; it is wrought by a great person, by a Saviour, and a great one, and who is the great God, and our Saviour; it

has been procured at great charge and expense, even at the expense of the blood and life of the Son of God; and has been obtained through great difficulties; and is the salvation of the soul, the more noble part of man; and it is a complete and everlasting one: to "neglect" this, is to be careless of it; to condemn it, and to despise the ministers of it; and to make anything else but Christ the way of salvation: and the danger such are in is very great; it is not possible that they should escape divine vengeance, since their sin is so great, and attended with such aggravating circumstances; for it is a contempt of the grace and wisdom of God in providing such a Saviour, and a trampling under foot the Son of God, and a counting his blood as a common thing; and besides, there is no more sacrifice for sin, they can have nothing to atone for it; and that God, whom they offend hereby, is both omniscient and omnipotent, and there will be no escaping out of his hands." There is no escape for you from the wrath to come if you ignorantly neglect the weighty matters of sin and righteousness and judgment to come, and life, and death and eternity. Listen to the sweet psalmist of Israel (2 Samuel 23:1), the man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22): No man cares for your soul. Do you understand that? You must care for it.

Your feet are in slippery places. (Psalm 73:18). You will soon now be brought into desolation as in a moment, and you will be utterly consumed with terrors. Psalm 73:18-19. What will you do? What will you do when "the heavens depart as a scroll when it is rolled together and every mountain and island are moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, shall hide themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And say to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelations 6:14-17. What will you do, friend, when the great day of his wrath is come? Who will care for your soul?

Listen to Dr. Linacre: "Either this book is not true, or we are not Christian." And we say unto you: either this Bible is not true, or the masses of the population of this evil nation are not Christian. Either this Bible is not true, or you mad frenzied fools rushing about with your Christmas and other holiday orgies are not Christians. Indeed, you are pagan and not Christian. You are heathen; not Christian. You are idolaters; not Christian. If God had intended for you to celebrate the birth of his Son on December 25th or any other day, don't you understand that he could have and certainly would have said so plainly in his book. Both the time and the manner in detail of such a celebration would have been spelled out in the Scriptures.

When God would have the ancient Jews to celebrate the Passover, for example, the exact time and methodology of the celebration was specified in great detail in the scriptures, including at Exodus Chapter 12. "And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a

lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever." Exodus 12:1-17.

Now, friend, how is that for specificity? And, I am saying to all of you empty-headed little Christmas freaks running around with holiday cheer dripping on your bibs from your wassailing bowls that if God Almighty had intended for you to celebrate the birth of his Son on December 25th or any other day you would be able to find it said with just such plainness and specificity in the Bible; just as the other celebrations plainly commanded to the Church, as water baptism for instance. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:19. And, the Lord's Supper for further instance: one unleavened loaf; one cup of wine—not grape juice--from which every Church member was commanded to drink. Not a lot of little cups of grape juice. And, the order was given: "this do in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." 1 Corinthians 11:26. We are thus commanded, and with great specificity, to celebrate the Lord's death and the Lord's resurrection and the Lord's coming again; and all this by the detailed ordinances of Baptism and the

Lord's Supper. But there is not a word, not a hint, not a suggestion, that we are to celebrate the Lord's birth on December 25th or any other day. And, you idolatrous Christmas freaks have simply added a pagan festival, attended by numerous heathen customs and practices, to the word of God. And you have done it in bold defiance of the plain threats and warnings from the Almighty Himself that to do such a thing is to incur the wrath of God and to enhance your punishment for your sins. "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book." Revelation 22:18.

This mighty hold, this strange addiction, this powerful attraction, which this hellish, heathen festival has upon you should persuade and convince your mind that you are not a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, that you are not in obedience to the scriptures of God, but that you are rather anti-Christ, anti-God, and headed straight to hell. You are sunk down in the deep debauchery of superstition and idolatry, and the soul-debilitating darkness of spiritual ignorance. You are in a word, doomed and damned and lost; and your Christmas fetishism is proof positive of it.

And further irrefutable and undoubted evidence that the citizens of this evil nation are possessed of the spirit of anti-Christ rather than Christ is their pleasure in and toleration of blatant sodomy. Such a state of affairs is described from Genesis to Revelation in the Bible as the certain sign that a society has degenerated to the lowest level of moral depravity and spiritual apostasy and is ripe for final judgment. We at Westboro Baptist Church were alarmed at the state of affairs in Topeka, Kansas, in 1987, concerning the insidious sodomite influence at that time in this City. The Sunday magazine section of the Topeka Capitol Journal in December, 1987, was devoted to a lengthy favorable discussion of "homosexuality" in Topeka. Listen to these quotes from that article. "Topeka harbors a large, close, active, homosexual community. There is a strong strain of religiosity among Topeka homosexuals, and 41 churches in Kansas and the four states on its borders have an outreach program supported by the gay community. There is tremendous diversity within the city's homosexual community, with all ages, social and economic strata represented; many professional people among them. You'd be surprised as to whom they are, including ministers from prominent Protestant denominations, and priests; and a disproportionate number are nurses, social workers, occupational and physical therapists. Many are found wherever volunteers are needed. You see them active in environmental and civil rights issues. It's a subculture that's very close. It's like being undercover and in a foreign country." 28 years later, in 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court has mandated fag marriage, Topeka had their first fag pride parade, and most of the churches have this so-called "outreach program" for fags. This society has made homosexuality respectable and accepted exactly as the ancient Sodomites did, "who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." Romans 1:32. That same first chapter of Romans describes in specific detail the direct and proximate result of the idolatry of such pagan festivals as Christmas: that you soon reach that bottom rung of human depravity where you will have in full view the arrogant

sodomite in all his pride taking center stage, who is incapable of blushing. Jeremiah 6:15: "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD." But this is where they started: "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections...men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." Romans 1:21-27.

Therefore we have reached that time of whose generation the Holy Spirit has perfectly described at Romans 1:28-32: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

Matthew 4:17: "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Acts 2:40-41 "And with many other words did [Peter] testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

The report I have for you today is that the preaching of Westboro Baptist Church for the last 60 years from our spot in the Vineyard of the Lord—which pursuant to all power in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18-20), has loudly and conspicuously warned and taught every man (Colossians 1:28) against and about the sin of ancient Sodom and Gomorrah—has resulted in the hardening of the hearts of 322 million Americans (without statistically relevant exception) so that they are universally and uniformly sunk down deep into the mire of the sodomite culture but think that they are just fine. (They also have no historical peer in their Christmas celebrations). To which we say: thank God and amen. "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:28-30.

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21).

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (1 Peter 1:22-23).

And, finally, let me remind you of these words: "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." (Philippians 3:20-21).

I love you. Amen.