New Life

December 1

The 335th day of 2019

23.5 days/564 hours

Christmas

The average American household will spend \$1536.00 this season

Average spending on a spouse is \$123.00

On the average \$152.00 will be spent on a Holiday meal It is estimated that will be more than one trillion dollars will be spent (25 ton of \$100 bills)

22% will go into debt to purchase gifts

Over 14% will sell a personal possession to purchase gifts

Over 27 million real Christmas trees will be purchased

768,000 seasonal workers will be hired

14 new Christmas albums released this year

Hallmark has 40 new Christmas movies this year

Hallmark has begun their 232 Countdown to Christmas movies, with more than 85 million viewers so far "The so-called "War on Christmas" has become an annual feature of the holiday season in the U.S., with much of the debate centering around religious displays on publicly-owned property."

Christmas, Xmas, Holiday, or Season

90% of Americans celebrate Christmas (310 million people)

95% of Christians celebrate Christmas (202 million people)

Pew Research Center survey
➤ The faith part of the Christmas celebration appears to be great decline

The majority of adults say Christmas is more of a cultural, than a faith, celebration

More Jingle Bell than Jesus

More snowmen than wise men

More naughty and nice than nativity

56% of adults believe that the faith aspect of Christmas is emphasized less in American society today than in the past, though relatively few are bothered by this trend

(114 million Christians fit in this statistic)



Studies show that about 30% of Americans will be a part of a religious service on a "regular" basis

During the month of December that percentage jumps to 60%

It appears that jingle bells and snowmen and naughty and nice list are dominating the Christmas season, but there seems to be a spark of spiritual hunger in the hearts of many

Do we see the dilemma?

The cultural steadily displacing the faith while an increased faith hunger is real in some

Colossians 4 Vs 3-4

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Vs 5-6

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown Of all the trees that are in the wood The holly bears the crown. The holly bears a blossom As white as lily flower And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To be our sweet Savior.

The holly bears a berry As red as any blood, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To do poor sinners good. The holly bears a prickle As sharp as any thorn, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ On Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark As bitter as any gall, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ For to redeem us all.

Holly Blossom

Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

Holly Berry

Matthew 26:28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Holly Barb

Isaiah 53:5 Jesus was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

Holly Bark

1 Peter 1:18-19

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

The Holly and the Shaker When they are both displayed The conversation may come alive And the Savior's love abound