Oh Christmas Tree 2

Candy Canes

Revelation 1:5b-18

1. Intro
   1. Legend has it that in 1670, the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany handed out sugar sticks among his young singers to keep them quiet during the long Living Creche ceremony. In honor of the occasion, he had the candies bent into shepherds' crooks. In 1847, a German-Swedish immigrant named August Imgard of Wooster, Ohio, decorated a small blue spruce with paper ornaments and candy canes. It wasn't until the turn of the century that the red and white stripes and peppermint flavors became the norm.  In Indiana, a candy maker wanted to make a candy that could be a reminder of Jesus Christ, so he made the Christmas candy cane. He started off with a stick of pure white hard candy. The white color symbolized the virgin birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and the hard candy symbolized the solid rock which was the foundation of the church, and firmness of the promises of God. The candy maker made the candy in the form of a J, which represented the name of Jesus and the staff of the Good Shepherds. He then stained it with three stripes which showed the scourging Jesus received, and symbolized the blood shed by Christ on the cross. When you break the cane, it reminds us that Jesus' body was broken for us.
   2. Other symbols and controversies:
      1. Ichthus: the Christian fish, means: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior, symbol used to mark other believers in the early church.
      2. Architecture: Gothic Architecture used the number of arches, windows, and columns to be symbols. Usually three arches for the Trinity, sometimes 12 columns for the 12 disciples, symbols everywhere.
      3. “Holiday”: Happy Holiday! Etymology of HOLIDAY is clearly from “Holy” day, you can’t escape the statement of Christ’s presence by calling it a holiday
      4. XMas: So hard for many of us to hear and see, but even this cannot take Christ out of Christmas. The X in the greek alphabet represents Christ, and keeps Christ in the message even when some try to use this reference to remove Him.
2. Text
   1. Verses 5b-7:
      1. He loves us
      2. Freed us from sins
      3. Made us HIS people
      4. Will return
   2. Verse 8: He has always been, is now, and will always be
   3. Verses 9-11: he communicates clearly
   4. Verses 12-16:
      1. Verse 13-15:
         1. Man: humanity of Christ
         2. Gold: Royalty of Christ
         3. White: Holiness of Christ
         4. Fire: Righteousness of Christ
         5. Unmovable: Sovereignty of Christ
         6. Powerful: Omnipotence of Christ
      2. Verse 16:
         1. Holding 7 stars: He holds it all together
         2. Two edged sword: the WORD of God
         3. Face shining with GLORY: That is the Glory that we let shine through us!
   5. Verses 17-18
      1. Fell at His feet: in worship and humility
      2. He touched John: personal and connected to us intimately
      3. Fear not…He knows us
      4. He is the first and the last (Deity)
      5. He was dead, and now is alive forever more: It is finished
      6. Keys of death and hades: He is in control and is the savior
3. Point: The Candy Cane
   1. Red: The Blood of Jesus Vv 5-6
      1. The blood will never lose its power
      2. The blood is that which sets us free
      3. We need a reminder of the Blood of Jesus every moment!
      4. The Blood:
         1. Speaks a better word than all the guilt we carry: Hebrews 12:24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
         2. Bought our pardon: Acts 20:28 28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.
         3. Reconciled us: Colossians 1:20 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.
         4. Provides redemption: Ephesians 1:7 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace
         5. Purifies us: 1 John 1:7 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
         6. Allows us confidence before God: Hebrews 10:19 19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,
         7. Justifies us: Romans 5:9 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!
      5. OH THE BLOOD OF JESUS!
   2. White: The Holiness of Jesus V 14
      1. HE is Holy and HE is Righteous
      2. He has given us that righteousness through “Imputation”
         1. Imputed Righteousness is the righteousness charged to our account
         2. This is given freely to us, called the Divine Indicative
         3. 2 Corinthians 5:21 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
         4. Basically all of the book of Romans
      3. Device Imperative and Divine Indicative:
         1. Imperative: that which we must do because we are His
         2. Indicative: That which we recognize we can’t do, but only possible through Christ.
   3. Three Stripes: The Deity of Jesus vv 8,17
      1. Jesus is declaring Himself to be the alpha and omega
      2. He is the beginning and the end
      3. And he is the Word that became flesh
      4. And he is the king of kings and Lord of Lords
      5. And he is the wonderful counselor, might God, Prince of peace
      6. The story of the Shepherds remind us of His Deity:

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14

“Glory to God in the highest,

    and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”[d]

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

1. Close