

Message Outline

Christmas thru the Clips: The Grinch

Jer. 17:9-10, Ezek.36:26-27

Intro: Entering Christmas thru classical Christmas clips...

- Why did the Grinch hate Christmas?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
- *Are one of these keeping us from experiencing all that Christmas has to offer?

The Prime Problem: A Heart Condition

- Matthew15:19-20—The heart is at the heart of all that goes wrong.
- -The heart as more than just physical organ...
- Jeremiah 17:9-10—"desperately corrupt"
- 1 Corinthians 4:5, Proverbs 21:2—the Holy God judges human hearts!
 - -He knows the true us no matter what our lips might say about us (Mt.15:8).
 - -This is alarming when we are aware of our own personal sin (cf. Ps.51:5—the first organ at conception...the heart!)
- BAD NEWS: A damaged heart can't heal itself!!! The need for a transplant (cf. Ezek.36:26-27).

The Only Solution: A Heart Transplant

- 1) You Need a D_____
 - Christmas announces a match has been found! (cf. Mt.1:20-21, Heb.2:14a).
- 2) You Need C_____
 - Consent often means repent (cf. Ps.51:10, 17, Acts 2:37-38).
- 3) You Need S_____
- The cross as the table for the transplant (cf. Gal.2:20).
- 4) You Need R_____
 - Strengthening the heart: monitoring and new habits (cf. 1Thess.3:13).

1st Sunday of Advent: Hope



"Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see." 1

¹ Faith shows the reality of what we **hope** for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

² Through their faith, the people in days of old (ie. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah) earned a good reputation....

God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

-Hebrews 11:1-2, 13-16 NLT

¹ The Conductor in the <u>Polar Express</u> by Warner Bros. 2004.