



The Predictable Pitfalls of the Holidays

Pastor Grant Fishbook
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The Predictable Pitfalls of the Holidays

Overindulging

Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.
– *Proverbs 20:1*

Listen, my son, and be wise, and set your heart on the right path: Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags. – *Proverbs 23:19-21*

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. – *Galatians 5:22*

Overspending

Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle. – *Proverbs 23:4-5*

The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.
– *Proverbs 21:20 (Living Bible)*

Overcommitting

To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the proper answer of the tongue. All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD. Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. The LORD works out everything to its proper end—even the wicked for a day of disaster. – *Proverbs 16:1-4*

Overcompensating

Don't fail to correct your children. You won't kill them by being firm, and it may even save their lives. – *Proverbs 23:13-14 (CEV)*

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Over-sharing

Sin is not ended by multiplying words, but the prudent hold their tongues.

– Proverbs 10:19

*Our celebrations should befit the very nature of our
guest of honor and the one who made the celebrations possible.*

*After all, it's his provision, incarnation and
promise of a fresh start that we are celebrating.*

Next Steps

CTK Blessing: This is the second weekend of the CTK Blessing – one of the simplest ways for you to live out the giving nature of Jesus. The Blessing is an opportunity for the people of CTK to give toward a fund that helps people in our midst who encounter desperate need. Whether it's a medical emergency, a debilitating illness, a tragic loss, or any other seemingly impossible situation, The Blessing makes hope possible for people who have nowhere else to turn. You'll find a green Benevolence envelope in your program. If God prompts you to give toward The Blessing, please use that envelope when you give.

If you missed last weekend's video of one family who benefited from the Blessing, check out last weekend's sermon at ctkbellingham.com, or visit www.vimeo.com/32103274 or visit our Facebook page.

Baptism: In a season focused on the Savior, we can't think of a more fitting celebration than for believers to be baptized! If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, don't miss this opportunity to follow his example and be baptized on the weekend of December 10 & 11. A required class is offered the previous weekend after services (7:15 pm on Saturday and 1:00 PM on Sunday). Details are in today's program; sign up at the Connection Point.

Small Group Questions



- 1) What do you look forward to as the holiday season approaches? What do you dread?
- 2) Solomon was a man who knew for an "over-the-top" life. His proverbs show a change of heart at some point in his life. What do you think changed?
- 3) Read all of the proverbs listed in the outline. Which one speaks to you the loudest?
- 4) Which of the predictable pitfalls is most likely to appear in your holiday season? What spiritual plan are you going to use to keep from tripping and falling into that trap?
- 5) Can you think of other proverbs that you use to guide your life?
- 6) How can we pray for you today?