

# “Christmas Around the World: The UK”

**Romans 12:9-13**

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**Rev. Brian T. Smeal; [pastorsmeal@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsmeal@gmail.com)**

**All Scripture quoted from ESV unless otherwise noted**

The UK is the United Kingdom, consisting of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The UK is generally considered to be the origin of the tradition of exchanging greeting cards, and of the observation of Boxing Day. Most families have a Christmas tree (or two) in their house, and possibly holly, ivy, and mistletoe as well. And the streets are often decorated with extensive light displays. Nativity plays and carol services are very popular, particularly the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast from the chapel at King’s College, in Cambridge

In the UK, it doesn’t snow very often, and Christmas is rarely a ‘white Christmas’ as we would think of it. As long as **one** snowflake is observed falling at any of the observation points in the UK any time during the 24 hours of December 25, they call it a white Christmas. So, if one crystal of snow is enough to influence whether or not an entire country regards 12/25 as a white Christmas, then you are enough to influence a neighbor, a family member, a friend, a coworker in the way they think about Jesus this Christmas.

It only takes a very few people, even just one or two, who are fully committed to God, to have a significant impact on a community such as our own. You may feel as fragile and insignificant as a single snowflake, but you have great potential to impact your community; not for the sake of the community itself; rather, you can have an impact on your community for the sake of the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ; an impact can ripple through your social circles, through your professional networks, and through your family.

One way to establish that impact is to love genuinely. That means holding others in higher regard than yourself. Real love like that does not disregard other people’s time and values; does not ask what’s in it for one’s self; does not gossip or complain about others; does not celebrate other peoples’ failures. Philippians 2:3 reminds us to “Count others more significant than yourselves.” God’s Word doesn’t say you are unimportant; quite the opposite, actually.

Another way to establish lasting impact is to live generously. That means going the extra mile; letting God have control; allowing God’s Spirit to ‘boil up’ within you, passionately serving the Lord, and seeking ways to help other people. Living generously means living in abundance. You have something in abundance – be it time, resources, words of encouragement, gifts of helping, or something else – and when you bless others out of that abundance, you create and maintain lasting impact.

This time of year, we love to find a bargain; something of immense value. What is the value of one? Can one person impact an entire community? What difference will you make this Christmas and Advent season? If one snowflake has the power to cause Christmas Day to become a white Christmas, you can have the power to change how people see Jesus this Christmas.

## Takeaways from this message.

### Christmas in the UK:

- Christmas (Plum) Pudding is a common dessert.
- Commonly regarded as the origin of the Christmas Greeting Cards and Boxing Day.
- The most famous carol service is called the service of nine Lessons and Carols.
- Christmas is rarely a 'White Christmas' as we think of it.

### Influence: all it takes is one.

- You are Enough to influence a neighbor, a family member, a friend, a coworker.

### Love Genuinely; real love does not:

- Disregard other people's time and values
- Ask, "What's in this for me?"
- Gossip about the other person or complain about them to others.
- Celebrate other people's failures.

### Live Generously

- Living generously means living in Abundance.

You have great Significance.

## **DIG IN!**

Here are some farm-fresh questions that will help you to personalize and apply this morning's message.

1. ***What was most surprising, unexpected, or helpful from today's passage/message? Why?***
2. ***Who do you know who is unchurched, but might be open to a conversation about the gospel this advent season? What is the first step in starting that conversation?***

3. *What do you have in abundance? How can you be generous with this, helping others who may be in need?*
4. *Do snowmen eat frosted flakes for breakfast?*
5. *What is the difference between hating what is evil and clinging to what is good (NIV)? Describe the challenges you face in doing both.*
6. *What other verses also call us to love others?*
7. *What have you learned through your personal time of Bible reading this week?*