



Hearing the Gospel through Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol Second Edition

By Cheryl Anne Kincaid

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"Hearing the Gospel Through Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol" is written as a Christian devotional which correlates each of the spirits in A Christmas Carol with the four biblical lessons of Advent found in the Anglican prayer book. This devotional exams the theological, historical and sociological forces that motivated Charles Dickens to write *A Christmas Carol*.

Most people don't realize "A Christmas Carol" has a biblical foundation. Each of the spirits that appear in A Christmas Carol directly correlates with an Advent lesson that is found in the Church of England's Book of Common Prayer. Perhaps that is what attracts Christians to the story of A Christmas Carol. Every Advent Christians revisit this old Victorian moral story with its images of snow covered English cobblestone streets, the sentimentally portrayed ragged poor, and its familiar story line doesn't seem to grow tiresome through the years. We revisit this story because it echoes with the ancient lessons of Advent. *Hearing the Gospel Through Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol* is a Christian devotional that uses A Christmas Carol as a tool to teach the ancient Advent lessons of Hope, Faith, Peace, Love and Joy. Each week's devotion begins with a section from A Christmas Carol which dramatizes the Advent Lesson and is followed with a scriptural Advent lesson from the Church of England's Book of Prayer. The word Ebenezer is defined in scripture as The Lord is my help (1 Samuel 7:1-2). As we travel through Ebenezer's redemptive healing journey, the devotional invites the participants to examine how Christ is born in their past, present and future. As a Christian pastor, I am grieved that the modern evangelical church has diminished the Advent season to a single Christmas Eve service or Christmas Sunday service. As a community, we no longer spend time preparing our hearts for the season of Christ coming. I am also grieved at how a calloused attitude toward the poor is equated with Evangelical thinking in the press and politics. Perhaps if we spent more time pondering the means by which Christ entered this world, we could free ourselves from this bias. Charles Dickens did this in his age with A Christmas Carol, now it is crucial time to revisit these lessons. *Hearing the Gospel Through Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol* has won the 2013 Illumination Award in Exegesis

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The Author does not recommend the 2010 edition because of poor editing. In order to enjoy the full experience of the book please purchase a later edition.

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Editorial Review

Review

Pastor Cheryl Kincaid is the author of the book, *Hearing The Gospel Through Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol*, in which she delves into the Christianity of Charles Dickens, and the beautiful way the Good News is presented within the pages of his beloved classic novel. Her research and the insights gained are both intriguing and enlightening, and while to hear about all of them, one would need to read her book -- Aimee Herd, *Breaking Christian News*

Cheryl Kincaid has produced a fascinating and insightful reading of the lessons of Advent through the lens of one of the most beloved of Christmas stories, Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. Preachers and teachers will find here a treasure trove of ideas for teaching and preaching, and every reader will be inspired to reflect on the great redemptive themes of Christmas embedded in Dickens's classic story --Dr Mark Strauss, Professor of New Testament, Bethel Seminary, San Diego; Author of *The Davidic Messiah in Luke-Acts; Distorting Scripture? The Challenge of Bible Translation and Gender Accuracy; Luke in the Illustrated Bible Background Commentary; The E*

About the Author

Reverend Cheryl A. Kincaid is an ordained minister with the Presbyterian Church, USA. She studied Marriage and Family Therapy at Bethel Seminary and later completed her Master's of Divinity at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Ordained in 2003, she is currently the pastor of a local church in Texas.

Users Review

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