



THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

John 4:4-26; Romans 3:23-24

Christmas (not so) Fun Facts



- There were 3 persons who died this year on Black Friday...**from shopping!**
- Average we spend **\$806 per person** on gifts during Christmas
- 4 out of 10 thinks they **spend too much** during Christmas...many more just spend and try not to think about it
- 7 out of 10 **bought themselves a gift** when they go shopping for Christmas gifts
- 12% of shoppers will **open new credit cards** during Christmas seasons, and many will not be paid off within grace period (and millions more new payment plans too)

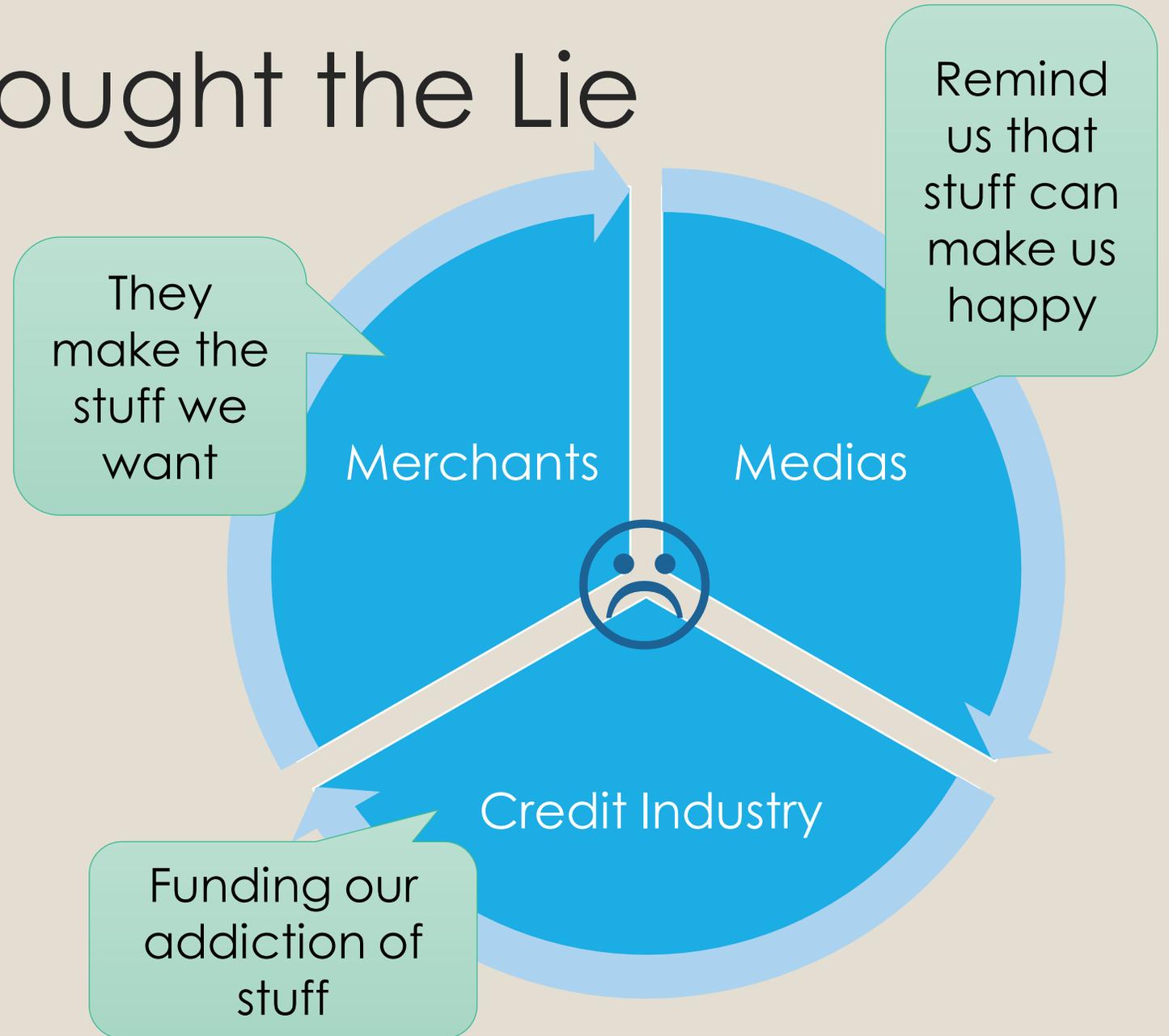
- (2 Cor. 8:20) There are **nothing wrong** with gift giving and receiving by themselves. We are **called to bless others**
- (Eccl. 5:18-20) There is nothing wrong with “stuff” in general either
- So what’s wrong? For start, buying & giving of stuff is hardly the reason of Christmas season
- Deeper than that: we equate “stuff” with happiness or fun
- Sadly, the **excitement** of “stuff” **do not last**, so we go get more
- The truth is: fun ≠ satisfaction.

Gift is good but...



Many Have Bought the Lie

- They are claiming to sell happiness, but in reality the more **unsatisfied** 😞 we are, the **happier** 😊 they will be. Contentment is their enemy
- The **world** is turning Christmas into an **economic event** (Eph. 2:1-3)



The Greatest Christmas Gift

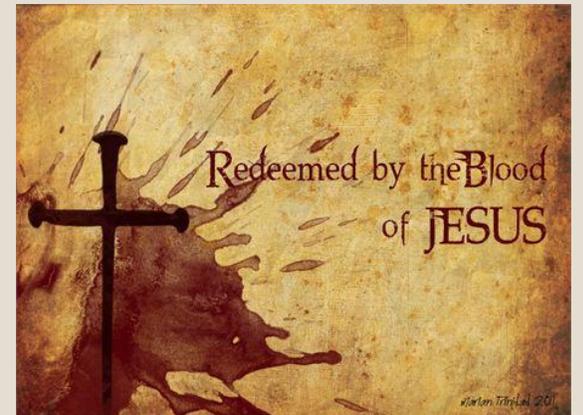


- (Eph. 2:1-3) Following the course of this world cannot be the answer!! So now what?
- (Eph. 2:4-5) In spite of our selfish desire **God still loves us** (mercy)
- (Eph. 2:8-9) to that end He have decided to give us the greatest gift—**His own son** (grace)
- We may think we need more stuff to make us whole, instead what is truly missing is a **relationship** (Col. 1:21-22) we are not complete without our Creator
- The greatest gift of all—God **wants** to be with you (Matt: 1:21-23)

A Gift & Not A Price



- Although God **never gives up on us** with His love...
- (Rom. 3:23-24) Nevertheless, sin is in the way (i.e. friendship)
- (Rom 6:23) And the only solution is **redemption**—Jesus died for our sins' punishment (ill: judge)
- (Eph. 2:8-9) Notice: this is a **gift**—you cannot earn it (ill: Christmas gift)
- Therefore, this require **humility** (Luke 18:10-14)





- (John 4:4-26) for this woman, her “stuff” was her husbands, Do you know what’s yours?
- Just like this woman, deep down you know your plan is not working...
- She rather ask **tough questions** than to take a really good look at her own heart (much harder, since require humility/pain)
- This is your choice today. You can keep asking deflective questions or blaming everything else, or you can choose **acknowledge** your sin & to **humble** yourselves and ask for the Living Water today, the choice is yours (Rom. 10:13)