

**Big Idea:** The impossible dream of a white Christmas can become a reality by trusting in Jesus whose red blood shed on the cross has washed us clean.

**Carols 2008**

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> **Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders <sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> **And that is what some of you were. But you were washed,** you were sanctified, you were justified **in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

- ▶ My brother and I used to do a radio show
  - and each year at Christmas
  - we'd have a '**Bing Crosby**' special
- ▶ Bing's most famous work'd have to be
  - 'I'm dreaming of a *white Christmas*'... you know
  - ...[sing]
- For carols this year... I wanna ask
  - is a *white Christmas* an impossible dream for us?
  - after all – *we live under the hole in the ozone layer!*
- ▶ Is a *white Christmas* an impossible dream OR
  - can it become a reality?
- During the week I did a bit of research
  - *to see if we could turn this impossible dream into reality*
- ▶ I was left thinking *a white Christmas* could *already be* a reality for us
  - we just have to look **in the right place**
- The first thing I think of, when I think of Christmas in Australia is
  - **Test Match Cricket**... [nic walks out in white with a bat]
  - Now you'd have to agree that Cricket makes for a pretty *white Christmas*
- ▶ And it's not just the cricket is it...
  - it's all the **white zinc cream**... [nic puts Zinc cream on]
  - that makes for a pretty *white Christmas*
- ▶ Something else I noticed about Christmas in Australia is
  - all the buff blokes getting round in **White bonds singlets** [nic takes shirt off]
  - not to mention all the PALE WHITE English tourists
  - in their **speedos** [nic shapes to take his pants off, but pulls out a doll instead]
  - now that's *a white Christmas* if I've ever seen one.

- ▶ Perhaps this *impossible dream of a white Christmas's* more **real** than we thought
  - *I mean we haven't even got to the food yet!*
- When I think Christmas in Australia
  - I think **cold white Chicken meat...** [nic pulls out plate with chicken]
  - and what goes with white chicken meat better than
  - **white potato salad...** [nic holds up salad and has a fork full]
- ▶ Of course, to top it all off, what would we have for desert...
  - a bit of **white ice cream...** [nic holds it up]
  - followed by a bit of **white christmas** perhaps... [nic has a bit of wc]
- So what do you say – is Bing Crosby's dream of a white Christmas a reality for us?
  - ▶ Not through these things is it
    - I mean really, to have a white Christmas – we need it to snow
    - The conclusion is
    - our situation makes it just about impossible for us to have a white Christmas
    - we really need it to snow this weekend... it's not a certainty is it...
  - You know, there's another white Christmas **we can't** have
    - and that's a Christmas where we're **WHITE** with God
  - ▶ See the reason we're all put on this earth is to be in a relationship with God
    - but most of us think of God like Santa Claus
    - somebody to think of at Christmas – who we don't really know
  - ▶ See the truth is God's far greater and more real than we ever give him credit for
    - and see by ignoring God's love we hurt him
    - just like we hurt each other all the time
  - ▶ God calls this 'wicked' in the Bible, it makes us impure – **far from White**
    - 1 Corinthians tells us the wicked can't be friends with God
    - **We're just not pure enough for him**
  - ▶ So we can't have a White Christmas,
    - a Christmas where we're pure and white with God...
    - you might as well expect snow on the beach
- But hang on... I said earlier that I discovered a White Christmas could be a reality

- You see 1 Corinthians goes on to tell us – **we have been washed clean**
- **that is – we’ve been made white**

▶ **How?**

- through Jesus Christ, the boy who was born on Christmas day
- Y’see Jesus grew up to be a man who’d die on the cross
- **And his blood washes us clean - white** - if we believe in him

▶ Now you might be wondering **how blood could make anything WHITE** or pure

- but see that’s the amazing thing about Jesus

▶ **HE DIED IN OUR PLACE**

- we were the wicked ones, we were the impure, we’re the ones who ignore God
- but Jesus died **IN OUR PLACE**
- his blood in place of ours

▶ **IF** we trust that Jesus died in our place

- then we will be washed clean
- **we will be WHITE with God**
- we will be **RIGHT** with God

● If you accept that Jesus came and died to wash you clean

- that Christmas really is all about **PUTTING YOUR FAITH IN GOD**
- **then you won’t be dreaming of a white Christmas anymore**
- This Christmas
  - being white with God will actually be a reality for you