

The Christmas trees are down and Christmas decorations are marked for clearance. The shop displays are already up for Valentine's Day and President's Day. It almost seems as though once the gifts are opened, there's no time to rest – no time to reflect on the immensity of what has just been celebrated.

Why is it that the moment we may come close to realizing that the Son of God has become incarnate, that we find ourselves in a hurry to box up any remembrance of that fact and hide it in the attic, the basement, the garage, or the pole barn.

As Christians, we run the risk of forgetting that the Incarnation of Jesus Christ is not a one day affair. Rather, the coming of God to earth should change everything: a troubled world is redeemed, sin is conquered, and we are reconciled with God.

The hustle and bustle of the holidays can tend to obscure the fact that two thousand and some years ago, God came to us as a real, live, baby. Not in power, not in majesty, not in glory – but vulnerable, humble, and poor. We can forget that the reality of the first Christmas isn't an idealized plastic world with artificial lights and pure white cotton batting; but was a real and messy as our own world and our own lives.

For some reason we find it easier to put God on a pedestal and hope that He stays there and doesn't bother us too much during the rest of the year. Yet for Christians, the reality of the Incarnation should penetrate our everyday lives in infinite ways – ways that should change everything.

After all, the arrival of a newborn infant to any home tends to turn everything upside-down. Midnight feedings, diaper changings, visiting relatives and neighbors. Life has become different, more is demanded of everyone. There is joy, but everything has changed.

I suppose we can ask ourselves, how has our annual remembrance of Christmas changed anything? Have we allowed the new-born King of Kings to turn things up-side-down? Or is he already safely wrapped in plastic and styrofoam ... in a box ... on a shelf?

This year, let us seek to expand our vision of Christmas from one day to something more. Let us make room for the Son of God in a way that allows our lives to be transformed – each and every day of this coming new year.

Christ is born for us. Come let us adore Him. Come let us be transformed by Him.