

my sins and rose again the third day. I confess that I am a sinner and I ask You to forgive all my sins. I repent of my sin and trust your righteousness and shed blood to save me. Please come into my heart, forgive me of all my sins, fill me with Your Spirit, and be my Savior. Thank You for saving me. I will serve You for the rest of my life until I see you face to face. In Jesus' name, Amen.



C. Matthew Recker, Pastor

OUR MEETING PLACES

SUNDAY:

127 E. 22th Street
New York, NY 10010
(Corner of Lexington Avenue)
10:00 am Bible Study Hour
11:00 am Worship Service

DEAF CHURCH

Pastor Emmanuel Sterlin

SUNDAY:

519 8th Ave. at W. 36th Street
New York, NY 10018
Room 807
10:00 am Bible Study Hour
11:00 am Worship Service

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THE STORY OF THE CANDY CANE

&

THE REAL MEANING OF



The story is told of two villages in a far-off land; one was in a valley, and one was on a mountain top. The people in the mountain village wanted to give each person in the valley a Christmas gift. These citizens of the mountain village had limited funds but desired to give a gift of equal value to each person of the village in the valley. The town's candy maker helped a decision to be reached when he devised the idea of a candy cane as a gift for all. The candy cane was conceived to be a gift for anyone to receive, but there are other reasons, too that the candy cane relates to the real meaning of Christmas!

1. The candy cane is in the shape of a shepherd's staff. This reminds us that Jesus is our Shepherd, and we are the sheep of His pasture. A sheep knows his shepherd's voice, trusts him and knows that he is safe in his presence. Jesus is the "Good Shepherd" who gives his life for the sheep (John 10:11, 27-29). Jesus is the "Great Shepherd" who after he died and shed his blood rose "again from the dead" (Hebrews 13:20). Jesus is the "Chief Shepherd" who will come again to reward His sheep (1 Peter 5:4).

2. When you turn the candy cane over, it makes a "J," the first letter of Jesus' name. The angel told Joseph to "call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Jesus



means "Jehovah is Salvation." Jesus was born in to die in order to save all who call upon Him for salvation.

3. The candy cane is made of hard candy to remind us that Christ is the "rock" of our salvation. Some say that religion is a crutch to the weak-minded, but we are sinful and completely unable to save ourselves. We are not in need of a "crutch" but we need a ROCK upon which to stand for our salvation. "He only is my rock and my salvation" (Psalm 62:2).

4. The red stripes on the candy cane represent the wounds Jesus bore and the blood He shed on the cross. The Scripture says that the penalty for sin is death, and that the life of the flesh is in the blood. Jesus poured out his blood, His life, for the sin's of the world so that we might be forgiven and receive eternal life. Ephesians 1:7 says, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

5. The white stripes on the candy cane represent Jesus' sinless life. Even though Jesus was tempted just as we are, He was completely holy. Paul says he "knew no sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Peter says he "did no sin" (1 Peter 2:22). John the Apostle says "in Him is no sin" (1 John 3:5). His sinlessness demonstrates that He is God manifest in the flesh because only God is absolutely holy.

6. The peppermint flavoring of the candy cane is similar to hyssop. Hyssop, of the mint family, was used in Bible times for purification and sacrifice. "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

7. Finally, the candy cane is still an inexpensive gift that anyone can receive. Remember that the reason for the season of Christ's birth is first about God's gift to us.(1 John 4:7,8) Will you receive gifts from family and friends and not receive the gift that God has for you? John sadly reports that "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not." The good news is next: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:10-12). Just as you have received this tract as a gift from us, you can believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and have Him as your Savior from sin. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12). Will you receive Jesus as your Savior or will you reject Him?

If you sincerely do believe and want Jesus to forgive you and come into your life, pray the following: Lord Jesus Christ, I believe You are God in the flesh and that You died on the cross for