

The Causes of Lack

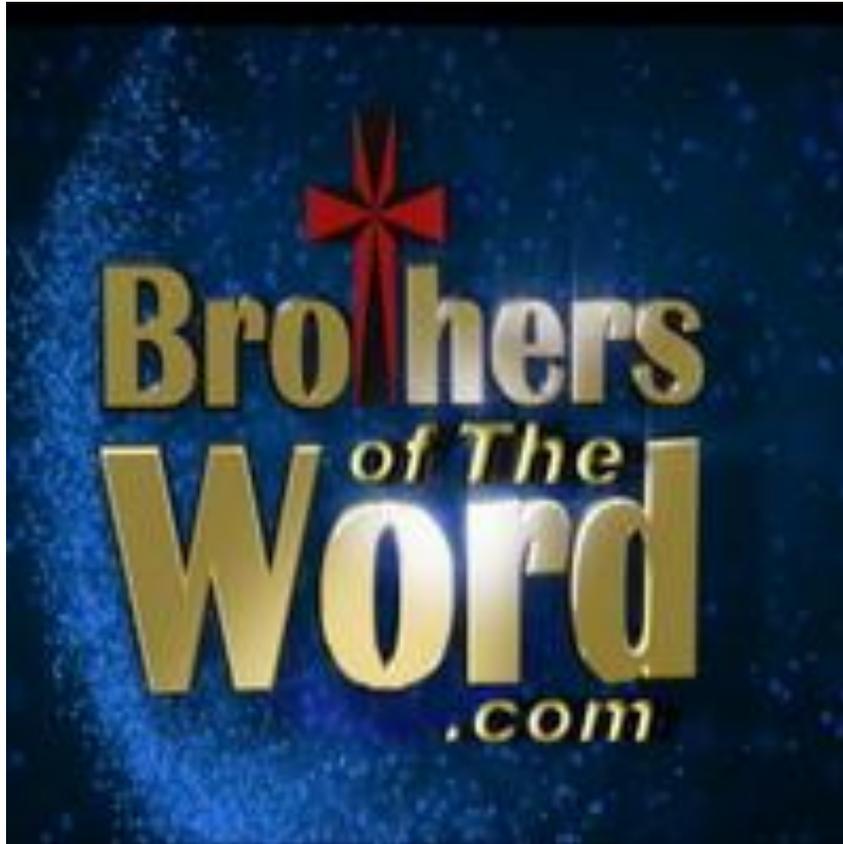
Sermon Title: **The Causes of Lack**

Sermon Number: **5775**

Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

Link to sermon audio - <http://www.theonlineword.com/mp3/5775.mp3>

Link to sermon video - <http://theark.s3.amazonaws.com/vid/5775.mp4>



BrothersofTheWord.com

Nathaniel Bronner: It's not a matter of having what you want, it's a matter of wanting what you have.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is Part 7 of the series titled, "The Causes of Lack" by Nathaniel Bronner. This is message is number 5775. That's 5775. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing)

And now for 5775, The Causes of Lack, Part 7.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. And today, I am still in a series called, "The Causes of Lack." And normally, we never identify the season or the time of year because people download from brothersoftheword.com, our sermons all time of the year, day, night, winter, summer, spring or fall. And it doesn't matter the season. So part of what we try to do is we never identify exactly when the season is because we don't know when people will be listening to a particular sermon.

But I'm going to identify the season today. Today is Christmas eve and tomorrow is Christmas day. And because of the Christmas season and some things that I just recognized, we had the youth do a script(ph) today and they've talked about how Christmas has become so commercialized. And often, we'll see in the holiday Christmas season a lot of stuff happens that's not necessarily good because of the way we think about Christmas. And one of the causes of lack is Noel. Noel is a word that is derived from the French. And we use it in so many of our songs. "The first Noel." We've heard that song over and over and over, most of us don't really know what Noel means. How many know what Noel means? Raise your hand. I don't see a single hand go up.

So most of us don't know what Noel means, we don't know where it came from. Basically, it was a French derived word that has two possible meanings. The first is from nativity or the navel meaning birth, and the second from novella which means news. So it actually has a potential meaning that it is from the news of a birth. But yet as I listen to the radio on yesterday and I listen to a song dealing with Noel, another revelation just hit me. In the literal of the English, see, "el" means God. Noel means no God and it is literally what the word means in its English

transliteration, no God. And as I look at Christmas and the way it is celebrated, it's Noel. There is virtually no God in Christmas.

If you go to the mall which is absolutely packed, there is Noel. If you go online and Black Friday, people often don't know the meaning of Black Friday. It's called Black Friday because it is the day the Christmas shopping begins and they have all these sales. It's called Black Friday because it is the day the retailers move into the black. They make money so it's called Black Friday, but in Black Friday is Noel. And one of the major causes of lack is Noel, because Christmas has come to really embodied everything that is about this commercialized, capitalistic, money-centered world.

And if I would to ask the simple question, raise your hand for all of those who believe that money cannot buy happiness. If I ask everybody to raise your hand, if you believe money cannot buy happiness, you get a whole lot of folk raising their hands who really believe money cannot buy happiness. Yet, if I ask you a corollary of that, if I ask you to raise your hand to think you'd be a little happier if your money doubled.

00:05:11

And now you see the dichotomy of the disconnect in that. You say that money will not buy happiness, yet almost everybody believes they will be happier if their money doubles. So somewhere in some condition, some kind of way, there is a big disconnect in how we think about money and it ties in so intricately with the Christmas season into why in the Christmas season we have moved to Noel. And this is a major cause of lack because whenever we move away from God and we take our focus off of God.

And there was another thing I noticed, I was driving here and I had on satellite radio channel and they were just playing Christmas music. The other thing that I notice is this, in virtually, every single song that I heard, the name of Jesus is in no song. And I listen and sometimes your spiritual eye will just open. The Christ is not his name, it's a title which is a difference. It's equivalent in a matter to me saying, the president of the United States, but that is different between saying Clinton or Obama, or Bush, or Trump, big difference. President is a title just

as Christ is a title. His name is Jesus. And as I listen to all of the songs, not one song has the name of Jesus. Not one.

I'm going to say, this is no accident because we all know whose birthday it supposed to be. But when you go back through history and you understand the derivation of Christmas, the mixing of Paganism with Christianity, Constantine, the Council of Nicaea and all of the stuff. When you understand the history, you understand how it was mixed, how December 21 is the darkest day of the year, it's the vernal equinox. And this is the time when night is in its longest and after December 21, the day starts to get longer is the birth of the SUN(ph) and how all of this stuff ties in, it's how we get the 12 days of Christmas. All of this stuff is based in astrology and paganism, but yet it is mixed into Christianity, and the bottom line is we got Noel.

And when anything that you have taken God out of, you're going to start putting depression and misery and all of the stuff in it that takes you out of God, and then it starts giving you the results that you wonder, "Why do I have let? Why am I depressed in this season? Why is stuff going to pot? Why are all this stuff happening? Why don't I feel the joy that I am supposed to feel?" Because you're in the middle of Noel. And we don't understand that until we get God and Jesus back into our world, it is never going to straighten out and sometimes, we get lost because we're so flooded with all of the commercialism. Bart Simpson once stated -- this is the fellow at Simpson's, the cartoon. He said, "Let's not forget the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Santa."

Now, it sounds crazy, but it's a whole lot of truth in that because if you take Santa and just move the N from the middle to the end, all you got to do is take Santa, S-A-N-T-A and move the N from the middle to the N and you change Santa into Satan. And the author of Saint Clair said, "Consider Christmas, could Satan in his most evil mood have devised a worse combination of graft which is greed plus, (00:09:12) which is a whole lot of hype and junk, then the system whereby several hundred million people get a billion or so gifts for which they have no use and some thousands of shop clerks dive exhaustion while selling them in every other child in the western world is made ill from over eating all in the name of the amble lowly Jesus.

And when we begin to look at some of the stuff, we begin to see how Noel has entered into our world and it has change some things. In Japan, Christmas is just a bigger commercial success as it is on America. And our television interview was walking the streets of Tokyo at Christmas time and he stopped one young woman on the sidewalk and asked, "What is the meaning of Christmas?" And she responded, "I think it's the day that Jesus died."

00:10:03

And I am not sure that the modern Christianity and the modern Christmas has not killed Jesus because you can't find it anywhere in the book. Often times, even Christmas, they have now replaced that with happy holidays. And they have taken the Christ out of Christmas and just put a big X-mas. So, when we begin to understand what they have done just commercial, a lot of times, it's for political correctness, but you can be politically correct, buzzing here wide open. And we don't understand that all of the Christmas hype and all of the stuff about spending, all of this money is designed to leave you broke and disgusted, the average American is going to be \$1,000 more in debt on December 26. And it will take the average American more than four months to pay off the Christmas bill.

And it says about 12% of them will put this extra \$1,000 on their credit card, they will only be able to pay the minimum amount which will take them about four to five years depending on their credit card interest rate to pay it off. Now, do you think Jesus want you struggling for the next four or five years trying to pay off some gifts that most at a time, most folk don't even have? If you ask a child and you go look at their Christmas stuff, six months later, where is it or what are you using that you got for Christmas last year? Turn to your neighbor, just ask them that question. "What are you using that you got for Christmas last year?" Ask them this question, "Can you even remember what you got for Christmas last year?" It sounds funny, but can you even remember what you got for Christmas last year?

And see, this is how Santa and Satan gets us all wrapped up and mixed up and we all messed up after this because there's no way in the bible and we have not followed biblical protocol with what we really should be doing about honoring the birth of Christ and it's one of the biggest causes of lack, Noel. And it's going to take

your money except if you are a retailer or a producer, then you got Black Friday. But for the average consumer, they're going to end strip of their money. In the fifth century, a man named Arnios(ph) determined to live a holly life. So what he did, he went out in the desert and he just lived in (00:12:33) life, just stripped of all the material goods. But once a year, he would go to the great bazars of Alexandria Egypt. And he would walk to the bazars which is a big market place. And when they asked him why, he explained that his heart rejoiced at the sight of all of the things that he did not need.

How many of you just walk through a mall, and you look at all of the stuff and there will come a point when you get high enough in God and you will look at all of the stuff and realize, "I don't need any of this stuff." See, a society has pushed us to the point where we want more and more and more, do you realize that 40 years ago, the average grocery store carried about 9,000 different items. Now, the average grocery store has close to 50,000 items. Now, what has changed in your needs from 40 years ago to now? But now, you've got so much more to choose from. You want to go and put some lotion on your hand. Now, you can go in the grocery and there's a whole out of all these different lotions. You really don't need, but one bottle of lotion. You really need about four types of lotions (00:13:41) everybody. But you walk down to see all these lotions, you can't figure out what to put on your hand. Then, we went to our corporate meeting, we were talking to the ladies, they have to have a lotion for the body, a lotion for the face, a lotion for the feet. And we got most stuff that we ever had before but we're more depressed.

In last year, the number one pharmaceutical sold was an anti-depressant, anti-psychotic. We got more stuff that we ever had in history and we are less happy than ever. Why? Noel. And I remember back in the old days, there was a grocery store called Colonial. And my father actually both the building once the grocery store moved out. But I think about that building now, it was so small compare to the big grocery stores of today. But yet, if you went into Colonial, they had everything you needed. Now, you go into the grocery store and you can spend an hour just wandering around and buying stuff that the vast majority of the time, there's so much to choose from. We get bogged and bottled down.

And right now, some of you who are listening to my voice, your money is messed up and you spent all this money on buying gifts. You spent all his money on buying gifts and your money are just messed up, Noel.

00:15:05

Does AV have the audio file ready to play? Ready? Now I want you to listen to this. And I want you to understand something's. I don't think a single one of you has received a gift from anybody that's better than what you about to here.

Female: First saved message received December 18 at 10:10 a.m.

Stephanie: Good morning, (00:15:26). This Stephanie from the church. I was on my way to my gig then I just felt the warmth of the Lord, telling me to call you and say how important you are, and how much we absolutely adore you. I am thankful for how much you love our children. I am thankful for how you (00:15:43). And I did not want to be disobedient in the (00:15:48) my dad, it felt heavy on me to let you know, that you see, all of the hard work you do on the prayers, (00:15:55) that no one knows (00:15:57). Your heart of hearts when you think of the people at the churches that you're giving your time (00:16:03). And then that he sees your needs, that he will provide them to (00:16:10) that you have for others and for yourself. Touch and agree and touching it and agreeing with you now for whatever you believe in God, going your own line in your own (00:16:21) in your own manage, because you've been self-able (00:16:23). And I had to call you right then (00:16:29) I know your heart is rich with the love of God with (00:16:34) and it's not today. You need to feel it that he loves you and he wanted me to call you right now.

Nathaniel Bronner: You can stop it now. I just wanted you to hear that. We were in the makeup room and (00:16:44) and just played what sister Stephanie left on her voicemail. Didn't caught that, but I can guarantee you that one message had more impact than anything you're going to buy for anybody. But it's real. You see, what he has got in his hand. You said, "You don't wear hats. What you doing with this hat? (00:16:59) there's a story behind everything.

Yesterday, I took my youngest son, George, to a birthday party and for the party, they actually drove out to Lenox Mall. For

those of you not in Atlanta, Lenox Mall is the most upscale mall or one of the most upscale malls in the Atlanta area. So they went out to Lenox, I came back later that night and pick George up and I had to give George some money and my wife said, "You give him some money because he needs some money because they're going to Lenox." So, I said, "George, what I'm going to do, I'm going to give you the money that you earned from your imagination station last night." So, it was a total of \$57.

So, George have \$57 and when I pick George up, I asked him how was his trip (00:17:39) I said, "Well, did you buy anything at the mall?" He said, "Yeah. I bought a hat and I bought some chocolate." So we got home and few minutes later, my wife said, "You shouldn't have given George all this money." I said, "Why not? All he bought was a hat and some chocolate." And then she threw some quarters and some pennies on the counter. She said, "That's all that's left of the \$57." I said, "Sweetheart, all he bought was a hat and some chocolate."

She said, "Yeah. But the hat was \$32 and the chocolate was \$21." I said, "What? And plus tax. This is all that was left of \$57." And George is a very -- he's got actually a huge amount of his money saved so he didn't blow his money, but just something about the Noel season. There's something about the season. When you get in the midst of all these folks buying all this stuff, and you get in the midst of the rush and it gets kind of like a shared crowd craziness that just gets to you. And you get all this money and you come back, and all your money is either gone or your credit card is charged up.

So I saw him and I asked George, I said, "George, can I talk about your experience at your \$57?" He said, "Yeah. You can go ahead and as a matter of fact, you can just take the hat and wear it." And that I got to admit, this is a leather hat. It's a very nice hat. So it's nice and you may think that it stands for Christ or Christmas, no. This is the Cavaliers, so it's not. What does he means? But it was so emblematic of how we are in Christmas and what happens with our money and what happens with our time and with our focus. And it's why so many of us sometimes we are in lack because of Noel.

And there are three misconceptions that are found in America today. Number one that having more things will make me happy. Number two, having more things will make me more important,

and number three, having more things will make me more secure. And none of that is true. Only God is going to make you happy as long as you are important to God and the only true security is with God.

00:20:03

I want to give you four things right quick that in this consumer driven Noel culture, that will help you get out of the area where you have lack. Four quick things. I'll begin with -- number one, don't be a racist. I now when you're saying that, "Well, pastor, what do you mean don't be a racist?" I'm not talking about the black and white or the ethnic type of racism. I'm talking about get out of the rat race. Don't be a racist. See, that's what gets us in a more trouble than anything else, we are racing against our neighbor. We're trying to have a bigger house, a fancier car, sharper clothes. We're trying to outdo our neighbor. We're in the rat race and that thing will mess you up and you're never satisfied with what you have because you're looking at what someone else. Don't be a racist. Get out of the competitive race with your neighbor.

Number two, reveal what you have. See, the old wisdom that goes, "It's not a matter of having what you want. It's a matter of wanting what you have." Reveal what you have and when we look at what we've got and we become thankful and grateful for what we have, it changes our whole vibration. Number three, render back to God, render back to God. When you focus on giving, it also changes your vibration. We heard from minister Stephanie that my wife doesn't usually ask for anything for Christmas. You know, she spends her time focusing on, she started a program several years ago called Yearly Angels at yearlyangels.com. And she said one day we're sitting and telling, "I'm just hearing God saying for me to raise \$10,000 and give \$1,000 to ten families during the Christmas season." She's been doing that for the last three or four years. And she's raised to \$10,000, I haven't given her dime on it, she's raised the money on her own and goes out every year and she present checks to needy people for \$1,000. It changes vibration during the Christmas season.

When you aren't worried about what you're going to get and it changes and it focus it on, you'd really give it to somebody who really need something. And it makes a huge -- surrender back to God. And number four, just realize the things that really matter.

And when you start realizing the things that really matter, it changes a whole lot of stuff. When we understand the most of this stuff is going to fade and die and it really didn't make that much difference. When you start to realize what really matters. Don't be a racist, reveal what you have, render back to God, and realize the things that really matter. And get out of the Noel season and bring Jesus into your life even if it's not in the songs, it needs to be in the song in your heart.

Amen. I'm going to ask the husband of the young lady who left that message, because for you to even deliver such a voicemail like that. You got to be happy with yourself in obeying God and sometimes that makes a difference just on who you attached to, it really does, it really does. So Pastor James, if you would.

Pastor James:

Amen. We thank pastor for that. Also, message for this season and something that we all need to take heat on. I'm actually going to ask my wife to come and close this because she really embodies I believe the spirit that Jesus wants us to have in this season. She takes joy in giving to others more than she does receive. So she didn't know that message was going to be played, but it really shows you that what you do in darkness will come to light. She even told me yesterday, she had received a gift and she said, "I really want to be able to just give more of us Christmas and that's our heart's desire." And she was saying it out of a sincere heart. So whatever she wants to say in, she was to close but sometimes you just need to feel the spirit of love and giving in. She really embodies that. Amen.

Female:

Amen. I'll be very quick because I would love to hear Pastor (00:24:13) get again. I just love your ministry. And I don't know how many of you know that I won the will of favor on Friday. I'm so thankful to the Lord because it was a true surprise, but it was just a testament to me because when I won -- I guess somebody else might say, "Okay, Lord, that's a real joke, but it was out of the entire wheel, there's 24 slots on that wheel." And of course, in my mind, I'm thinking -- because I will give a lot of it with the permission of my husband. I would give as much of it away as I possibly can because that's my heart.

But as it was going around, I was thankful because it was coming up on that \$10,000 and I was watching it, watching it, watching it and it went -- and what it landed on was what, I guess, the Lord

is saying to me with me being called up, pastor use in the message that I sent to my dear friend, (00:25:07).

00:25:07

It's not about money because what I landed on was dinner with my family. God was showing me that the blessing is what I already have, not what I am looking for.

So in that, I guess, I just had to get up and give that testimony because so many of us this time of year, we're looking for something different, we're looking for something more, something extra. When technically, we got it all right here in front of us and it's more than enough, it's more than what God has given because there's somebody out there that does not have what you have. So I'm thankful that God is allowing me to be, I guess, Halleluiah for just being used, Halleluiah because my life is his. And if you want to give anything to anyone, give Jesus your heart because your life, I promise you, it will change. In that first 30 minutes, in that first 30 days, it may not be what you see, but things begin to happen in over time. It is totally new path for you walking with Christ. Okay? God bless you.

Nathaniel Bronner: I want them to understand what the wheel of favor landed on. It wasn't just dinner with her family. There are three separate prizes with dinners with each pastor. S, there's one where you get a dinner with Pastor Nathaniel and his wife. One with Pastor C. Elijah and his wife. What it landed on, it landed on dinner with Pastor James and his wife, that's what it landed on. That was the wheel of favor.

Female: Yes, that we were the favor. You get it. Sounds like God just truly deposited that just for me.

Nathaniel Bronner: It was a blessing and so much. And I had another realization with this hat. As I was driving this morning, I realized something. With this hat on, I could not see the sun. And there's so many of you got some material stuff and with your material stuff, you cannot see the sun.

Female: If all hearts and minds are clear, if you would please stand. Halleluiah. Dear Lord, we just thank you right now for this season to give your name the glory and the praise, to give you what you are worthy of Father. You are far greater than any

words that we can speak or anything we can give to anyone. So Lord, right now, open out mouths to pray for one another. Open out hearts to give to another, Lord. Not expecting anything in return, but that we might glorify you. You said to do things in the earth so well that men would glorify our Father in heaven. So right now, Lord, we just ask you to allow us to see us, to allow our hearts to reflect you, to allow Jesus to be exhibited and exalted within our lives as we walk, as we go places. Let them see the love of Christ in us, the love of Jesus in us, the name Jesus on our lips. Let us walk that you might be glorify. Father we just thank you for giving your son just for us. A sinful nation, a sinful world, God, we just praise you right now for each person and we ask you Lord to give us your grace and your mercy, and to continue to be with us. We thank you, Lord for this season and every day. We give you the glory in Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Merry Christmas. Halleluiah.

Nathaniel Bronner: Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word. This is Pastor Nathaniel Bronner and I really wish that you have not just a joyous Christmas season because I'm not a seasonal person because God is not a seasonal person. I want you to have a joyous life, the whole life, not just December 25, the whole life. And when you get God into your life, your whole life changes and you're not just happy during Christmas, you're happy all year long year after year after year after year, regardless of what happens outside and around you. Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This was Part 7 of the series titled "The Causes of Lack" by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5775. That's 5775. To listen to over a thousand free messages or to send this Message No. 5775 to a friend, go to brothersoftheword.com.

Male: If this message has been a blessing to you and you would like to help support this ministry, go to iwanttogive.com. That's iwanttogive.com.

Female: Listen to brothersoftheword.com often because brother you need the word.

00:30:08