

# Advent

Hope · Love · Joy · Peace



**The true light that gives light to everyone  
was coming into the world.**

**John 1:9**



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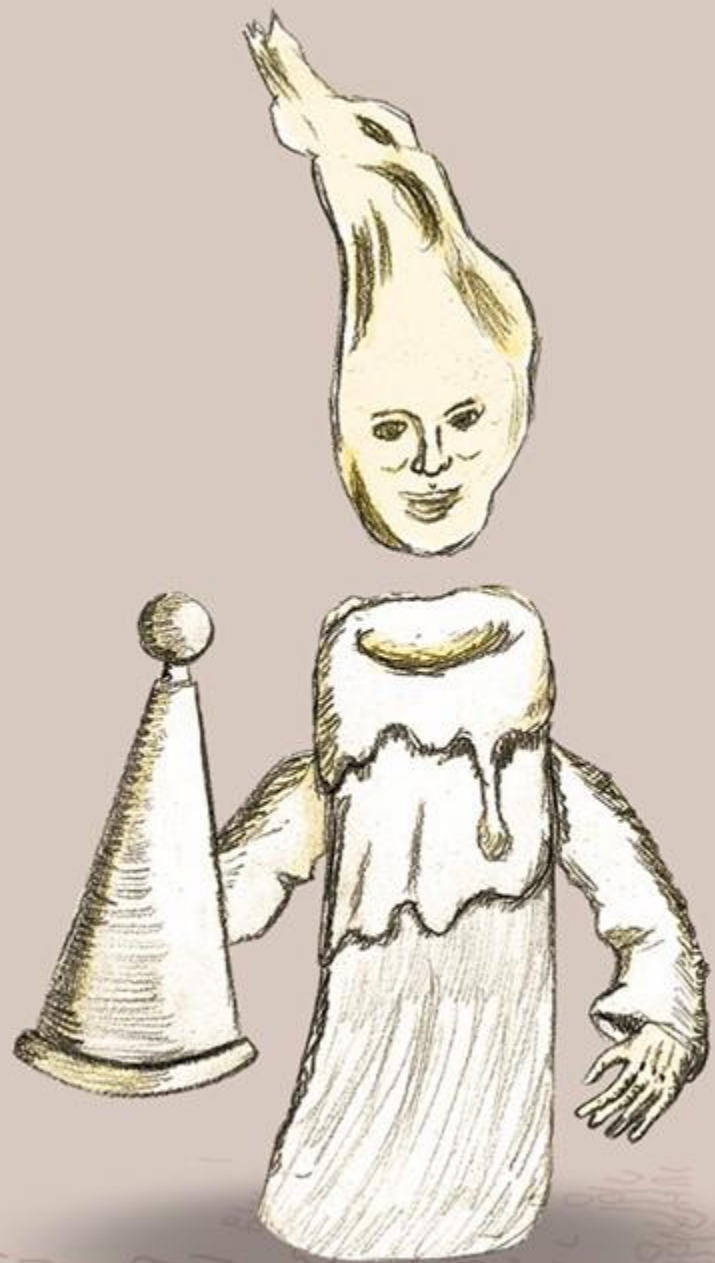


# Confronting Christmas Ghosts

The Peace of Christ for your Past, Present & Future

# Scrooge's Story





Ethan Livingstone



# Confronting Christmas Ghosts

The Peace of Christ for your Past

**While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"**

**Matt. 9:10-11**





**On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”**

**Matt. 9:12-13**



**Same Sickness.  
Different Symptoms.**





# How do you confront the “ghosts” of your past?

**Escape**

**like Tax Collectors and “Sinners”**

**Try Harder**

**like Pharisees**

**The true light that gives light to everyone  
was coming into the world.**

**John 1:9**

**Everyone who does evil hates the light, and  
will not come into the light for fear that  
their deeds will be exposed.**

**John 3:20**

**But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light,  
so that it may be seen plainly that what they have  
done has been done in the sight of God.**

**John 3:21**



**He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”**

**“I have no husband,” she replied.**

**Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”**





**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”**

**Luke 4:18-19**

# Strategies we use to keep our “ghosts” out of the light.

## 1. Pretend



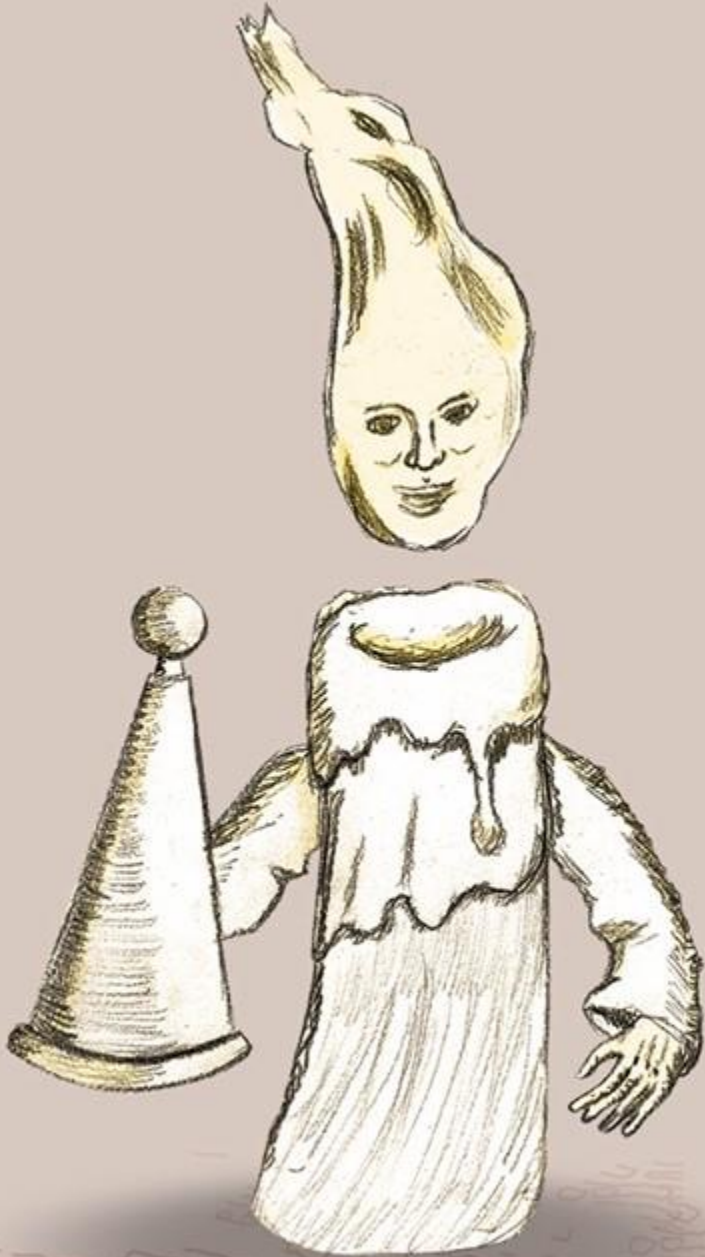
# Strategies we use to keep our “ghosts” out of the light.

1. Pretend
2. Minimize



# Strategies we use to keep our “ghosts” out of the light.

1. Pretend
2. Minimize
3. Rationalize



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# Strategies we use to keep our “ghosts” out of the light.

1. Pretend
2. Minimize
3. Rationalize
4. Blame others





## Strategies we use to keep our “ghosts” out of the light.

1. Pretend
2. Minimize
3. Rationalize
4. Blame others
5. Spiritualize



## Strategies we use to keep our “ghosts” out of the light.

1. Pretend
2. Minimize
3. Rationalize
4. Blame others
5. Spiritualize
6. Settle



## Strategies we use to keep our “ghosts” out of the light.

1. Pretend
2. Minimize
3. Rationalize
4. Blame others
5. Spiritualize
6. Settle
7. Hostility



**Surely he has come to take up our pain and bear our suffering...He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our sin; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.**

**Isaiah 53:4-5**



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