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THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Why and What do we as Christians Celebrate?

What the Bible tells us:

John 1:1-3 (kjv)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

(2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Out of His pre-existence in eternity with the Father, The Son came down to earth to do His Father's will.

While being fully God and yet fully man, Jesus came from heaven to earth as an infant to save mankind and to die for our sins.

John 1:14 (kjv)

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

God who is spirit came to us. He was on a mission. According to Philippians 2:5-11: Jesus took on human form, even the form of a servant ready to suffer and die so that he would be exalted and we might experience salvation through his sacrificial death. He came to us in a personal and unique way so that we would know the depth of his love.

John 1:29 (niv)

The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Look, the Lamb of God, who **takes** away the sin of the world!

Jesus came from heaven to earth as an infant to save, deliver and set us free. Forgiveness of sin **only** comes through the blood of Jesus Christ. For without the shedding of His blood, there is no remission (forgiveness) for sin. (**Hebrews 9:22b**)

Takes: present tense. He is available to us 24/7. He accepts all sin, great and small.

John 4:34 (kjv)

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Spiritual nourishment. Where do you turn for spiritual refreshment? God is the infinite source of strength, wisdom, and joy.

2 Tim 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable (useful) for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect (complete), thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Psalm 107:9 (niv)

For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

(**John 14:6**) Jesus is the only way to guarantee total satisfaction. (**John 6:33,35**) He is the bread of life, (**John 4:10-14**) He is the living Water of life, and (**Matthew 11:28-30**) He is the Giver of rest.

John 6:38-39 (kjv)

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (39) And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Jesus works **With** God and in perfect harmony **with** him. The Father has a sovereign plan, the Son implements the plan and the Holy Spirit executes the plan. Jesus said, "I have come" :

(**Matthew 9:13**) to call sinners, (**John 5:43**) represent my Father, (**John 7:29**) from Him and He sent me to you. (**John 12:46**) as a light to shine in this dark world, (**John 12:47**) to save the world.

Jesus came from heaven to earth to bridge the gap and reconcile us back to God. He is the Chief Shepherd. He is soon to return.

1 Peter 1:18-19 (kjv)

forasmuch as ye know that ye were **not** redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, (19) **but** with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

The Spirit of Christmas

*A time of Giving. A time to share. Togetherness. Thinking of others more than ourselves.

*A lifestyle without limits. Being the best version of Christ in you.

*Bring joy to someone else: (**Proverbs 17:22 kjv**) A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.

*Be intentional in your giving. Give the gift of quality time to others. Tell the world that Jesus lives. Our faith may lack sincerity if it doesn't reach out to others.

*Give your testimony and proclaim the good news: (**1 John 5:11-12niv**) "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

*Christmas should not be commercialized (used for profit or selfish gain).

What does Christmas mean to you?

(**Luke 2:14 kjv**) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men.

(**Mark 16:15-16 kjv**)

And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.