

Christmas Eve ~ Saturday, December 24, 2016

“From heaven Above ~ The Gift of Joy”

Luke 2:1-20; 1 John 4:7-16

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)

Christmas was all _____ idea—Christmas began in God’s heart and it’s all about God’s gift of _____.

The gift of Jesus is a gift we don’t _____, nor earn—it’s a gift of God’s love and _____ freely given to anyone who would _____ it.

This truth is easy to _____—amidst the busyness and rush; the food and fun; the presents and parties.

The only people who enjoyed the first Christmas were those who were _____ for it.

“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...’” (Luke 2:8-10)

Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem is good news—it is God’s gift of _____. Notice the angel says; “for _____ people.”

There are no _____ here—no qualifiers, limits, conditions, _____ or requirements

4 REASONS JESUS’ BIRTH IS GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

#1. Jesus’ birth is good news of great joy because through it God shines His _____ on us.

A lot of people think that God’s only good to them when they’re _____. It’s a _____-driven idea that God only smiles on us if we’re doing good things.

“God causes his sun to shine on all people, both good and evil, and he sends rain on those who do right and those who do wrong.” (Matthew 5:45)

God doesn’t play _____.

“The Lord is good to everyone.” (Psalm 145:9)

The world teaches that we get what we _____. With God, we don’t get what we deserve—we get the exact opposite—we get what we _____ deserve—we get _____!

“When the goodness of God appeared, he saved us...” (Titus 3:4)

Do you need to experience God’s goodness this Christmas?

#2. Jesus’ birth is good news of great joy because through it God showers His _____ on us.

God has never made a person He didn’t _____.

“God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins...” (1 John 4:9-10)

Jesus is proof of God’s _____ for us.

“God showers compassion on all his creation.” (Psalm 145:9)

“Each day the Lord pours out his unfailing love on me.” (Psalm 42:8)

No matter what we do, we can’t make God _____ loving us.

God may disapprove of some of our _____ or _____, but He will never disapprove of us.

“God is love.” (1 John 4:16)

2 TRUTHS TO HELP US KNOW GOD LOVES US

• **Real love pays _____.**

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.” (Matthew 10:29-31)

Every day of your life is _____ by God—every hair on your head; every tear you’ve ever cried.

• **Real love takes** _____. It is about _____ and not _____.
“For God so loved the world, He gave his only son...” (John 3:16)

God loves us so much, he was willing to die for us. In Jesus, God brings _____ to the broken hearted and _____ to those who are in despair. He brings _____ to the dark places of our lives and _____ to our troubled hearts.

Do you need to experience God’s love this Christmas?

#3. Jesus’ birth is good news of great joy because through it God shares our _____.

As we all know only too well, trials and challenges are an _____ reality of life.

Our’s is a _____ God. He isn’t just aware of our pain and suffering—He _____ it and _____ it.

This is what Christmas is all about—God entering into our world in the _____ as _____ of us.

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel—which means ‘God is with us.’” (Isaiah 7:14)

2 REASONS GOD UNDERSTANDS AND SHARES OUR PAIN

• **He** _____ **us.**

“God made the hearts of all people so he understands everything that they do.” (Psalm 33:15)

When we’re going through suffering of any kind, God gets it because He _____ us.

• **He has** _____ **there.**

“We have a chief priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but he didn’t sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus understands our _____ pain:

Jesus also understands our _____ pain:

Jesus understands our _____ pain:

God isn’t _____. He is very _____—walking with us; sharing our joys and sorrows.

Do you need to experience Emmanuel—God with us—this Christmas?

#4. Jesus’ birth is good news of great joy because through it God _____ **us.**

“Today, in the town of David a Saviour has been born for you...” (Luke 2:11)

The key word here is _____. The _____ and the _____ go together; _____ and _____ go hand in hand—you can’t have one without the other.

The reason Jesus came in the first place was for our _____.

“All of us, like sheep, have gone stray. We have left God’s paths to follow our own.” (Isaiah 53:6)

We all have _____—things we wish we hadn’t said or done; and things we wish we had.

The good news of Christmas is that God wants to _____ us—He wants to _____ us from our burden of guilt and _____ our conscience.

3 THINGS ABOUT GOD’S FORGIVENESS

• **God’s forgiveness is** _____.

• **God’s forgiveness is** _____.

“It’s by grace you have been saved, through faith. And this not from yourselves, it’s the gift of God. Not of works so no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

• **God’s forgiveness is** _____.

“Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” (Hebrews 10:17)

“He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. (Ps. 103:12)

Despite what some people think, Jesus didn’t come to _____—He came to _____.

Do you need to experience God’s forgiveness this Christmas?



Jesus is the most _____ gift; the most _____ gift; the most _____ gift that you will ever receive.

What better time than Christmas to welcome Jesus into your heart and into your life in a fresh new way!

What better time to experience this good news of great joy for yourself!