

December 24, 2017

1 John 1:1-4

What Does Christmas Mean?

1. Christmas means our eternal salvation is by grace alone.

John 14:6 NLT

6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

In contrast to all other religious leaders, Jesus did not come with instructions, he came with an invitation:

" I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying." John 11:25 (NLT)

2. Christmas means God wants to have a relationship with you.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing:

... veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity ...

John 15:15 NLT

15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

John 3:16 NLT

16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave^{3:16} Or For God loved the world so much that he gave. his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

3. Christmas means you can live with joy every day.

a. Joy is found in God's presence

1 Chronicles 16:27 (NLT)

27 Honor and majesty surround him;
strength and joy fill his dwelling.

b. Joy is possible when we follow God's truths

Psalms 1:1-2 (NLT)

1 Oh, the joys of those who do not
follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners,
or join in with mockers.

2 But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.

Psalms 19:8 NLT

8 The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living.

c. Joy is possible when we trust God for our future

Psalms 126:5 (NLT)

5 Those who plant in tears
will harvest with shouts of joy.

d. Circumstances don't transform our joy; joy transforms our circumstances

2 Corinthians 1:4-5 (NLT)

4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 5 For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.

Today, know this: Christmas is more than a story. It means God is reaching out to you, to give you joy today and eternal life in the future.