

## What Christmas Really Means

### TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to share with you a Christmas card I received from Prison Fellowship Ministries: The True Meaning of Christmas. . . "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16, NIV.

What's Christmas really all about? Family? Gifts? Decorated trees? Santa Claus? There's a far deeper meaning to the season than all these things.

The Bible verse above, John 3:16, explains what Christmas really means.

It describes a mighty act of God's love for mankind. You see, Christmas is about the most amazing event in human history!

Nearly 2,000 years ago, God sent His only son, Jesus, to be born into this world of suffering and evil as a helpless infant. To grow up and live a completely sinless life. And, though He was innocent of any wrongdoing, to die the death of a common criminal.

The reason for all of this was so Jesus could take upon Himself the punishment you and I deserve for our sins, by dying in our place. He did it because He loved us, sinful though we are.

But Jesus' story doesn't end at the grave. He rose from the dead, and rules in Heaven today. And now, He reaches out to you, offering new life and hope.

Right now, you can accept those gifts. You can invite Him to come into your life and heart. His love can bring you a new life of peace and joy.

All you must do is confess your sins to God, receive His forgiveness, and by faith accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord. That's the true meaning of Christmas — a miracle of God's love given to the world. Given 2,000 years ago, so today you could receive that gift of love for yourself. (The End).

"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12.

"... The mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom

God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery. . . which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:26, 27.

Some of you are trying to earn your way to God by good works. For some it might be helping the poor, witnessing door to door, observing the sacraments, church attendance on Saturdays, baptism, or any other good work done to make up for your sins. But all these efforts are imperfect and can never satisfy God's requirement for perfect righteousness.

There is only one work which God requires for your salvation and it is believing in Jesus. Many scriptures testify to this but Jesus says it well in John 6:27-29. "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life. . ." Then they asked Him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent."

Let the third verse of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" be your prayer to receive Jesus as your Savior this holiday season.

"O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to me I pray,  
Cast out my sin and enter in —  
be born in me today;  
I hear the Christmas angels,  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to me, abide with me  
My Lord Emmanuel!"

May God bless you.

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