

THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS



Christmas to me means hope. Hope for the world and hope for the individual who will receive it.

There is no event in all the history of mankind so beautiful, so important, so tender, so divine and human as the birth of Jesus the Son of God and Savior of the world.

That beautiful bundle in the manger was God's offer to us of another life, another way of living. It was His offer to us of pardon and peace.

No one has to be bound by the goals and standards of this world. God gives us an alternative, a different path to walk on, a road that leads to life.

But the truth of all this did not dawn on me until I was in my early twenties. Until I had a taste of the pleasures of this world. Until I saw that the world with all its entertainment and thrills could not satisfy the longing deep in my soul for something genuine, something lasting.

What I was unconsciously searching for, but could not find, was peace of mind and love – real love.

We'll think about that peaceful night in Bethlehem when God intervened in history to show that He cared. He gave us His best Gift that night. It was not gold or silver. It was not a precious stone or diamond. But much more. It was His only beloved Son.

And God loves you now and cares for you. But you have to give Him a chance in your life. You have to open your heart and life to the One who was born in that manger and died on that cross. He is a living Savior who loved you and gave Himself for you on the cross.

Everyone has his share of problems and difficulties in this world. Christians suffer what all other people suffer. What makes the big difference is that we have the Lord Jesus Christ with us to help us and guide us.

The hope of Christmas is valid and real. But it is found in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ offered His peace to all who believe in Him: "Peace I leave you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

This Christmas take heart. You have great hope offered to you by the living God. He gave His Son as a babe that beautiful Christmas night. He gave His Son as Savior on the cross 33 years later. He offers His Son to you now as your own personal Lord and Savior.

The Bible says that God loved us so much that He gave His Son to die for us on the cross, that we might be forgiven, cleansed and reconciled to Him.

In returning God's love and receiving His Son as your Lord and Savior, you will do yourself the greatest favor. You will have forgiveness of sins and everlasting life.

You will have Someone with you to help you day by day, to give you courage and hope. You will never be alone again. What more can you ask for?

To receive Christ, simply pray and tell Christ that you trust in Him as your Lord and Savior. Ask Him to come into your heart and life.

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