



Imagine that on your birthday, all your friends and family were invited to come to your house to celebrate your birthday, but when they arrived, everyone completely ignored you and brought gifts for each other instead? How would you feel to not receive a single gift, and in fact to be completely ignored on YOUR birthday?

Christmas is the celebration of the Lord Jesus Christ's birthday, and not the celebration of either your birthday or mine. And yet today, for the most part, Jesus Christ is completely ignored on HIS own birthday. Isn't that sad?

Do you know who Jesus Christ is? The Bible is God's Word and it tells us who Christ is and what Christmas is all about. God wrote the Bible for all humans to know about Him: **"All Scripture is inspired by God..." (2 Tim. 3:16).** God's Word says that Jesus Christ is God Himself, who came to earth to become a human being: **"Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus." (Titus 2:13).**

Why would God come to earth and become a human being? **"Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed..." (Titus 2:14).** "Redeem" means to free us from the penalty we deserve because we are such sinners. THIS IS WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT.

God became a human and was born with no sin when Mary gave birth to Him 2000 years ago in a manger

(His family could not find any other place to give birth to Jesus). He was sinless, because He is God. The day He was born is CHRISTMAS DAY! Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth as a human being. God became man FOR US!

Why did God become a human? So He could grow up and die on the Cross 33 years later, and take the penalty we deserve for our sinful, evil ways. The Bible says, **"There is none righteous, not even one;...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God!" (Rom. 3:10, 23).** No human can take away his own sin and judgment. No criminal can declare himself **"not guilty"** before a judge. We cannot remove our own sins before a holy God either. A perfect, sinless human had to take our place and die for us, taking divine judgment for OUR sins! GOD HIMSELF was willing to do this. That is why he came to earth and became a man. **"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf..." (2 Cor. 5:21).** That is how much God loves you! He was willing to die for YOU! That is what Christmas is all about – celebrating a Savior who came to earth to die for all of us, so that we could one day go to heaven. Christmas isn't about us, it's about Jesus!

The **"Gospel"** is a word that means, **"the good news of what Jesus did for you and me."** The best news on this planet is that Jesus came to earth, was born as a human, while still being God, lived a perfect life and died a sinless death on the Cross for all human beings. Three days later, He rose from the dead, having victory over all sin and death.

Christmas is the celebration of that wonderful day He came to die for us, because He loves us so much. But it means nothing if you ignore Him. It's His birthday, not yours. Are you ignoring Jesus? Our world is very evil, and is ignoring the Lord Jesus Christ more and more. Isn't it sad to see so little mentioned about Jesus ON HIS OWN BIRTHDAY??

Even though God loves you, you cannot be saved from hell if you do not believe Christ is who He claims to be. You must receive Him as your Lord and Savior. **"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).**

The Bible says you must **"believe"** in Him. **"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36).**

Why not receive right now, the greatest Christmas gift you can ever receive – a gift that is offered personally to you, from God Himself!

Do you know how to receive a Christmas gift? It's easy. You just take it. You do not pay for it. You cannot earn it, nor can you do any good thing to get it. You just receive it. The Bible says, **"For by grace you have been**

saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Eph. 2:8).

You cannot save yourself from your own sinfulness, and from the penalty of hell you deserve, any more than a murderer can pardon his own crime. If you are good enough to go to heaven, then why did Jesus die on the Cross for you? God went to great lengths to send His own Son to die for you so you could go to heaven one day, but you do not need that gift? The Bible calls that blasphemy. To reject the gift of salvation is to say that God did not know what He was doing when He sent His Son to earth to die for you. God DID know what He was doing, because He made you and knows just what you and I are like. We are very bad in our hearts. We sin many times a day.

Why not turn to Christ today and receive His Christmas gift that's just for you? There is no other way of salvation. Jesus Himself said so, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; No one comes to the Father but through me." (John 14:6).**

If you desire to celebrate Christmas by honoring the Lord Jesus Christ, then all you have to do is talk to him in your heart and ask Him to save you. Receive the free gift of salvation by faith alone, and God will grant you eternal life at that moment. **Why not pray this prayer right now?**

"Jesus, I am a terrible wrong doer in my heart and life and feel great guilt. I ask you to forgive me ("If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 Jn. 1:9). I repent and turn away from my life of evil and sin and selfishness, and I believe in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 1:15). I deserve hell, but I ask You for mercy. I freely trust You, Jesus, as my Master and Lord by faith alone. I believe you died for my sins on the Cross, giving me cleansing and freedom from judgment. I believe you rose from the dead, giving me victory over sin, and heaven one day when I die. I receive you now as my very own Lord and Savior. Please save me from hell. Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen."

We are here at East Side Bible to help you if you would like spiritual counsel from the Bible. Feel free to contact us today.

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