

**There Is More to the Story:
The Doctrine of Christmas
December 24, 2023**

Introduction:

Text: 1 John 1:1-4

Big Idea: The central truth of Christmas is this: **God became what we are SO THAT HE might make us right like HE IS.**

#1- Christmas is from and about _____ (1a)

- Jesus did not have his beginning at birth or in the manger.
- Christmas finds its origin not in the manger but in eternity past and it is derived from the eternal one himself.

#2- CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT _____ (1b-2)

- The information about Jesus Christ is _____.
- Jesus Christ is authenticated by his _____.
- Jesus Christ is authenticated by his _____.
- Jesus Christ is authenticated by his _____.
- Jesus Christ is authenticated by his _____.

#3- CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT _____ WITH GOD (3)

- The message of Christmas is meant to be proclaimed TO YOU.
- The eternal life leads to fellowship with God and with other believers.
- What is this fellowship?

#4- CHRISTMAS BRINGS _____ TO THE WORLD (4)

Truth into Action – Jesus left heaven to come to earth to give you a gift. His desire is for you to be in relationship with God the Father, Himself, the Holy Spirit, and other believers for eternity.

#1-BE CERTAIN YOU HAVE UNWRAPPED THAT GIFT.

#2-ENJOY ALL THAT GIFT IS MEANT TO PROVIDE.

#3-LIVE JOY-FULL IN GOD FROM THIS DAY FORWARD AND FOREVER MORE!

Connect Card:

- Describe the joy or lack of it in your life today.
- How can we pray for you?



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

(A guide to be used to grow as a disciple of Jesus by yourself, as a family or small group)

WARM UP: Discuss this statement “It doesn’t matter what you believe just as long as you believe.”

- Open your Bible to 1 John 1:1-4 and re-read it.
- Why was it important that the Apostle John had heard, seen, and touched Christ himself?
- What does the “Word of Life” refer to? What does this name tell us about Christ?
- After John saw these things, what did he do with this knowledge (verse 2)? Is there any lesson here for us as to what we should do with the knowledge we have of God?
- What does the Apostle John mean by the phrase “so that you too may have fellowship with us” (v. 3)?
- Why is it important to base our faith in Jesus on the biblical revelation of Him?
- How important is it that a believer pursues finding joy in God in their life?

PRAYER: Thank you, God for Christmas. Thank you for making a way for me to be in relationship with You and other believers. You alone God have made the way for me to have a Merry Christmas. Guide me to find all my joy in YOU. Amen!

Resources:

John MacArthur, 1 John

Timothy Keller, Hidden Christmas

Life Application Bible Commentary, 1, 2 & 3 John