



**Part 2 – December 9, 2018
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through his prophet: *‘Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’*”

Christmas Joy

When you look in the manger and see the face of the Christ, you should sense joy.

Biblical Narrative of Joy:

Luke 1:14, And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. (Angel speaking to Zechariah)

Luke 1:44, For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. (Mary speaking to Elizabeth)

Luke 1:46-47, And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Mary’s response)

Luke 2:10, And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (Shepherds)

Matthew 2:10, When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. (Wise men)

This year, don’t be distant from the manger. Come close, and have your joy renewed as you look upon the Christ child.

Jesus who was fully God became fully man so we could find eternal joy!

Christmas Freedom

Galatians 4:4-7, But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Insight:

God Sent His Son

His timing is always perfect.

He came from heaven to earth on a mission.

Born of a Woman

When He came to earth, His deity was clothed with humanity.

The exclusive reference to His mother corresponds with the doctrine of the virgin birth as taught in the Gospel.

Born Under the Law

He kept the Law perfectly, fulfilled it, and finally paid its curse.

He was willing to be a curse for us, so sin might be placed on Him, so we could ultimately be set free.

Application (The Why):

That We Might Be Redeemed

This is not a redemption from the curse of the Law but from slavery to the entire world system.

We have all broken the law, and therefore, we are under the curse and deserve punishment.

That We Might Receive Full Rights as Sons

God's purpose in the incarnation is that we might become sons of God, and this sonship is based upon redemption.

All the enjoyments of His family belong to those who have entered into the benefits of Christ's redemptive work.

That We Might Become Heirs of God Through Christ

Because He shared in our humanity, by His grace and through faith in Him, we are able to share His glory.

Notice that God's purpose was both to redeem and to adopt, not just to rescue from slavery but to transform slaves into sons.

God With Us

Psalm 34:18, The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

It is more rewarding to be in the wilderness with God than on the mountain without Him.

Your deepest need becomes a gift when it drives you to depend on God.