

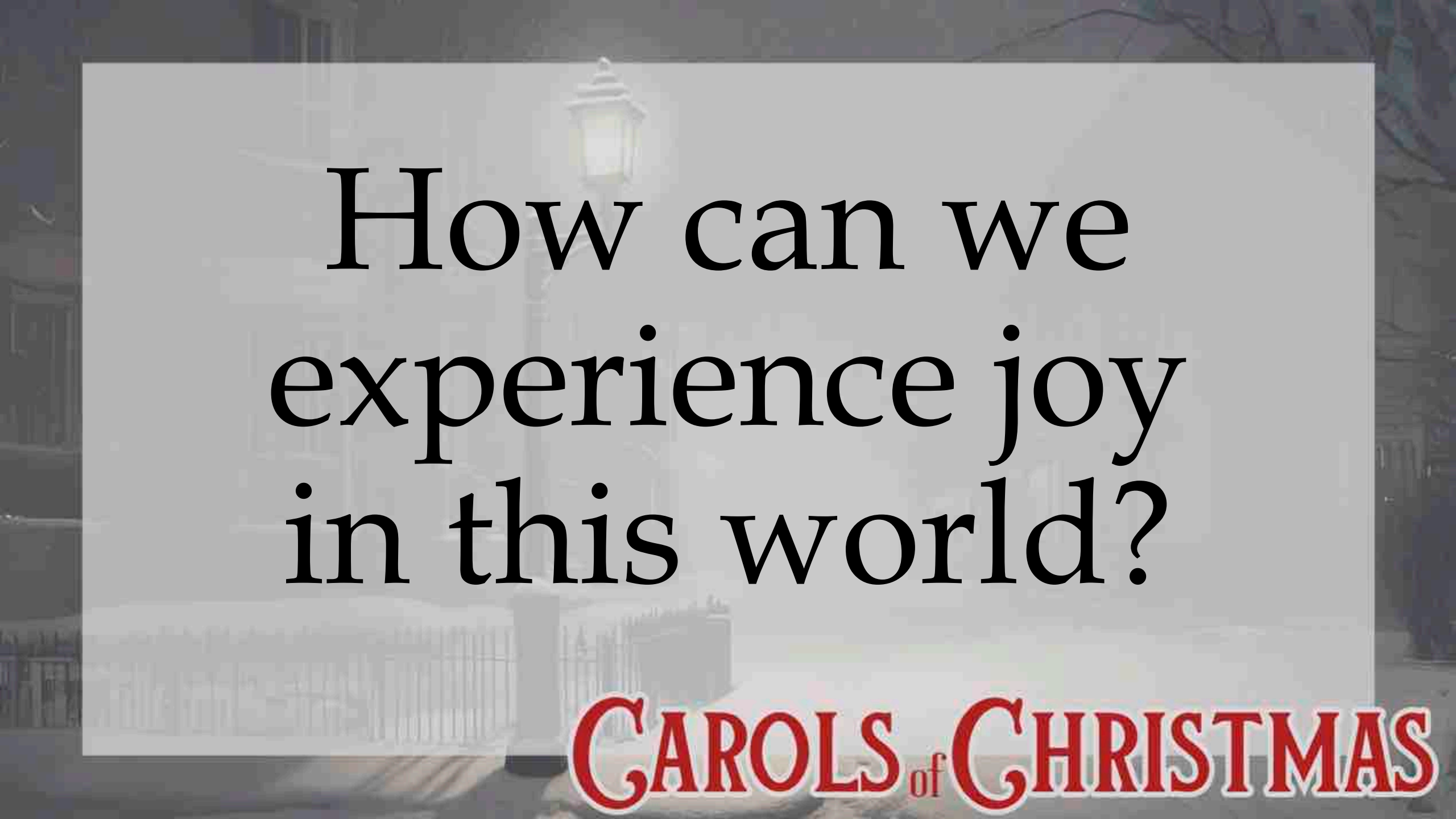


**CAROLS**  
of  
**CHRISTMAS**

# Joy to the World

~ Psalm 98 ~

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

A winter scene with a street lamp and a fence. The background is a soft-focus photograph of a street at night or dusk. A street lamp with a glowing light is visible in the upper left. A white fence runs across the middle ground. The overall atmosphere is quiet and serene.

How can we  
experience joy  
in this world?

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

Does the Carol  
Joy to the World  
Contain the Secret?

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

# Isaac Watts

- 1674-1748
- Father of Modern Hymnody
- Authored some 750 hymns
- Theologian/Preacher
- Book on Logic
- Genius



**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

# Isaac Watts

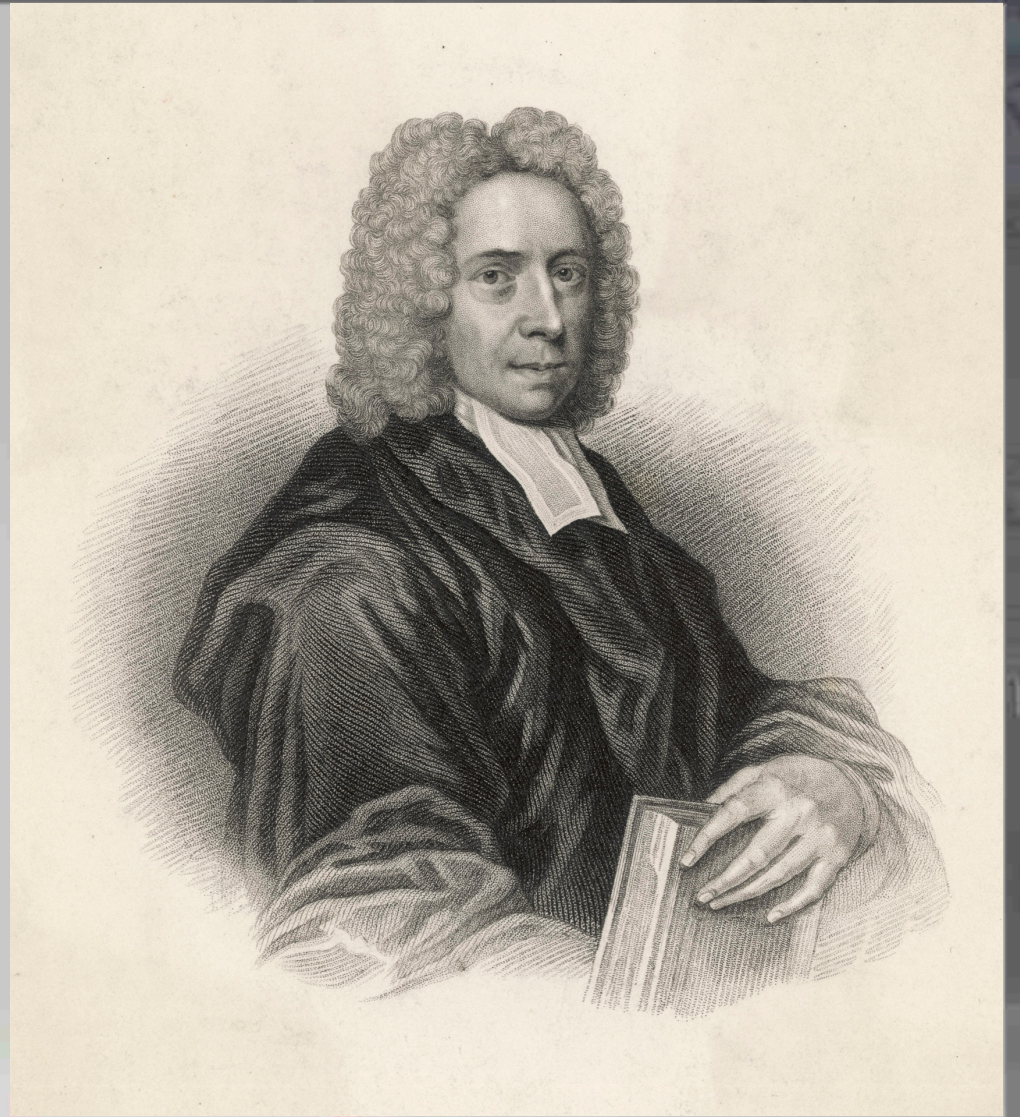
- Heretic or Rebel ("nonconformist")
- Church of Dissenters
- Father imprisoned twice for not conforming to the Church of England
- Always complaining about the music in church. Dad said, "If you don't like it, write some hymns yourself..."



**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

“The most considerable and most universal reason why you profess to dissent from the established church, and to separate from them, is, that you may make better improvements in religion than if you continued in their communion.”

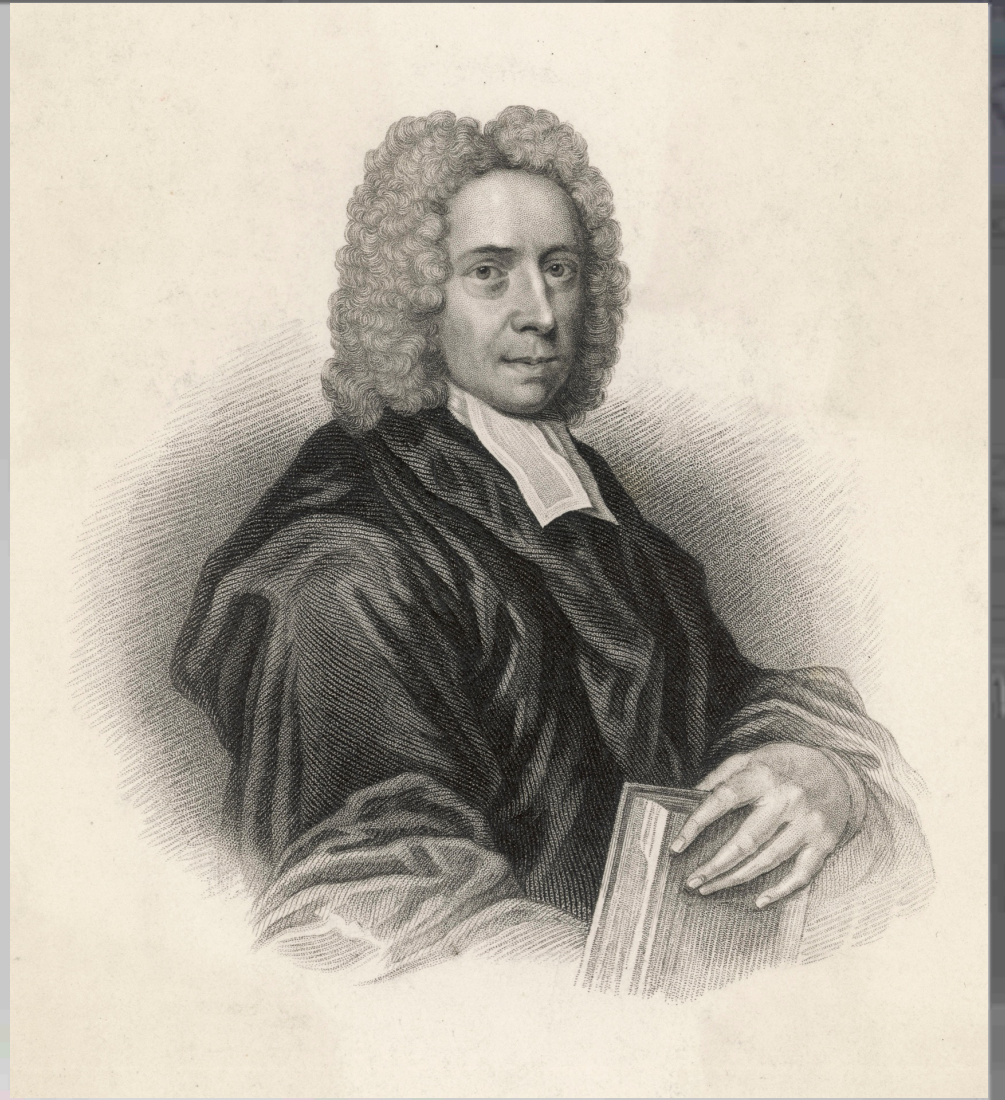
~ Isaac Watts



**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

“To see the dull indifference, the negligent and thoughtless air that sits upon the faces of a whole assembly, while the psalm is upon their lips, might even tempt a charitable observer to suspect the fervency of their inward religion.”

~ Isaac Watts

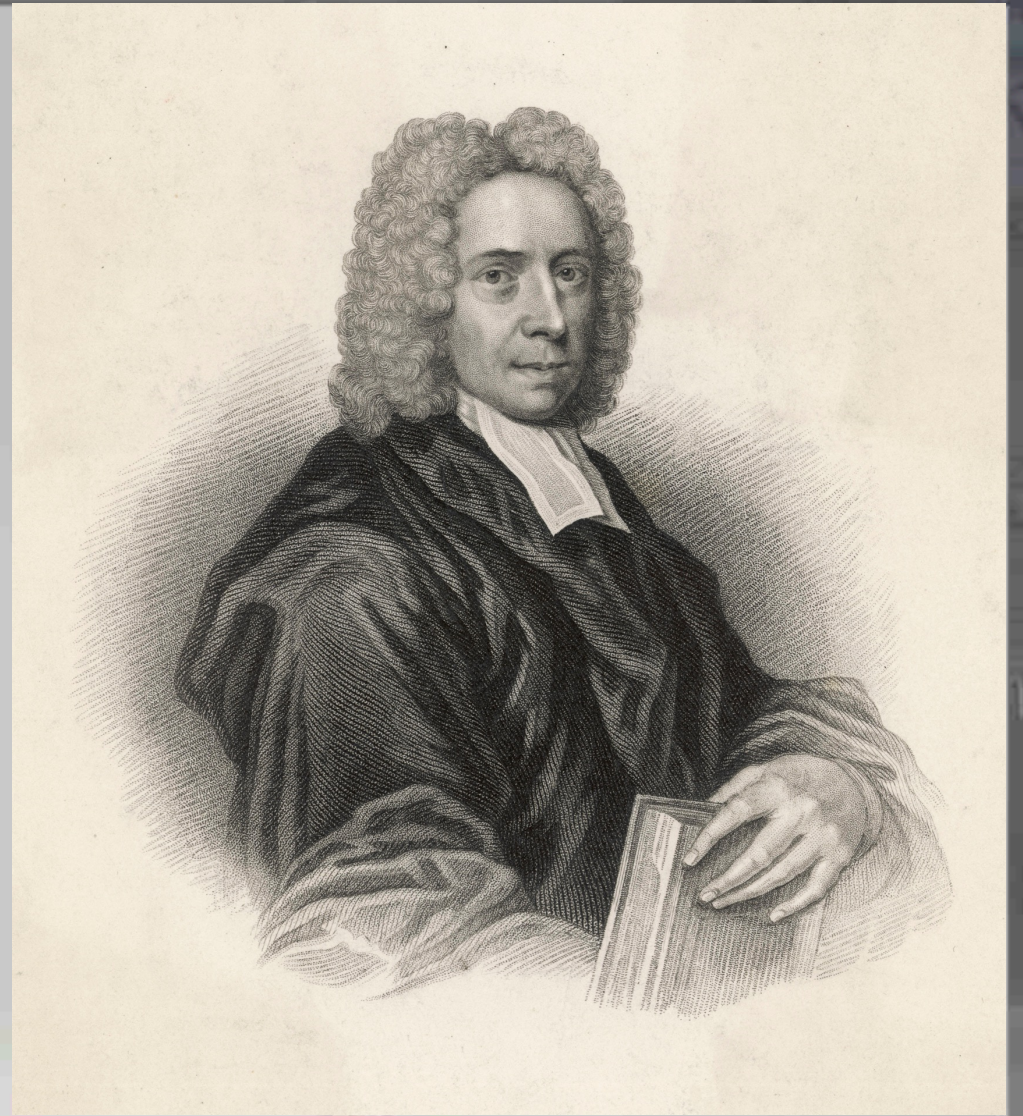


**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**



The Great God values not the service of men if the heart be not in it: The Lord sees and judges the heart; He has no regard for outward forms of worship, if there be no inward adoration, if no devout affection be employed therein. It is therefore a matter of infinite importance, to have the whole heart engaged steadfastly for God.

~ Isaac Watts



**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

## Part 1: Praise for the gospel

To our Almighty Maker, God,  
New honors be addressed;  
His great salvation shines abroad,  
And makes the nations blest.

He spake the word to Abraham first;  
His truth fulfils the grace;  
The Gentiles make his name their trust,  
And learn his righteousness.

Let the whole earth his love proclaim  
With all her diff'rent tongues,  
And spread the honors of his name  
In melody and songs.

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

## Part 2: The Messiah's coming and kingdom

Joy to the world! the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills, and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with  
truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love.

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

Why Isn't  
Joy to the World  
Bringing  
Joy to the World?

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

# Why Isn't Joy to the World Bringing Joy to the World?

# 1) It was never supposed to be a Christmas song!

# 2) Poem vs. Song:

- We left out Part 1: Praise for God's hand in saving the world!
- It's not "The Lord has come;" it's "The Lord is come!!"

#3) Modern renditions leave out verse 3 "far as the curse is found."

- We like to live as if the world is not under the curse (Genesis 3)
- Practical Atheism: holding an intellectual commitment to belief in God but thinking, feeling, and behaving as if there were no God. ~ Rubel Shelly

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

# *Psalm 98*

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2 Tim 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives.

It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. (NLT)

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

# How can we have Joy in this world?

## 1) Experience Joy from what Jesus has done - Psalm 98:1-3 (part left out)

- New Song? New Life!
- Marvelous/Wonderful/Extraordinary things! Beyond human ability – Sara child, plagues Egypt, crossing Jordan
- Right Hand and Holy Arm worked (“gained” or “accomplished”) salvation
- Remember LOVE (“hesed”) and faithfulness
- All earth seen salvation

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

## 1) Experience Joy from what Jesus has done - Psalm 98:1-3 (part left out)

- Right Hand and **Holy Arm** worked (“gained” or “accomplished”) salvation
- Isaiah 59:14-16

<sup>14</sup>Our courts oppose the righteous, and justice is nowhere to be found. Truth stumbles in the streets, and honesty has been outlawed. <sup>15</sup>Yes, truth is gone, and anyone who renounces evil is attacked.

The LORD looked and was displeased to find there was no justice. <sup>16</sup>He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So he himself stepped in to save them with **his strong arm**, and his justice sustained him. (NLT)

- Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**



## 1) Experience Joy from what Jesus has done - Psalm 98:1-3 (part left out)

- **Right Hand** and Holy Arm worked (“gained” or “accomplished”) salvation
- Isaiah 48:13

<sup>13</sup>**My own hand** laid the foundations of the earth, and **my right hand** spread out the heavens.

- Isaiah 41: 9-13

<sup>9</sup>I have chosen you and have not rejected you. <sup>10</sup>So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. **I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.** <sup>11</sup>“All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. <sup>12</sup>Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. <sup>13</sup>For I am the LORD your God **who takes hold of your right hand** and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**



# CAROLS of CHRISTMAS

# How can we have Joy in this world?

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**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

## 1) Experience Joy from what Jesus has done - Psalm 98:1-3

- Remember LOVE (“hesed”) and faithfulness
  - Covenant LOVE
  - Showing LOVE to a thousand generations of those who love me (Exo 15:13, 20:7; Deu 5:10, 7:9)
  - Give Thanks to the Lord for He is good; his LOVE endures forever! (1 Ch 16:34, Psalms - esp. 136:1-26)
- All earth seen salvation – Hebrew Joshua; Greek Jesus!!
  - Gen 3:15, “He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”
  - Gen 12:3, “I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples of the earth** will be blessed through you.” Repeated 60 times in OT alone!

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

# How can we have Joy in this world?

## 1) Experience Joy from what Jesus has done - Psalm 98:1-3

- New Song? New Life!
- Marvelous/Wonderful/Extraordinary things!
- Right Hand and Holy Arm worked salvation
- Remember LOVE (“hesed”) and faithfulness
- All earth seen salvation

<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have **seen your salvation**,<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared **in the sight of all nations**: <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the **Gentiles**, and the glory of your people Israel.

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**



How can we have Joy in this world?

1. Experience Joy from what Jesus has done.
2. Experience Joy from what Jesus is doing.

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# How can we have Joy in this world?

1. Experience Joy from what Jesus has done.
2. Experience Joy from what Jesus is doing.
  - Shout Joyfully!!
  - Accession of King
    - Sound trumpets as announcement of new King (1 Kings 1:39)
    - Zeck 9:9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
    - John 12:13-16 <sup>13</sup> They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" <sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: <sup>15</sup> "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

CAROLS of CHRISTMAS

2. Experience Joy from what Jesus is doing.

- Shout Joyfully - War Cry!!

Joshua 6:2-5 <sup>2</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. <sup>3</sup> March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. <sup>4</sup> Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. <sup>5</sup> When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a **loud shout**; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

Judges 7:19 <sup>19</sup> They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. <sup>20</sup> The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they **shouted**, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" <sup>21</sup> While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, **crying** out as they fled.

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**





# CAROLS of CHRISTMAS

How can we have Joy in this world?

1. Experience Joy from what Jesus has done.
2. Experience Joy from what Jesus is doing.
3. Experience Joy from what Jesus will do.

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

### 3. Experience Joy from what Jesus will do.

- Sea roar (to thunder, cause to tremble, to rage)
- All who dwell
- Rivers clap!
- Mountains Sing - War Cry!
- Rom 8:18-25
- Luke 19:39-40 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, **the stones will cry out.**”

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

### 3. Experience Joy from what Jesus will do.

**Rev 21:1-5** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” 5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

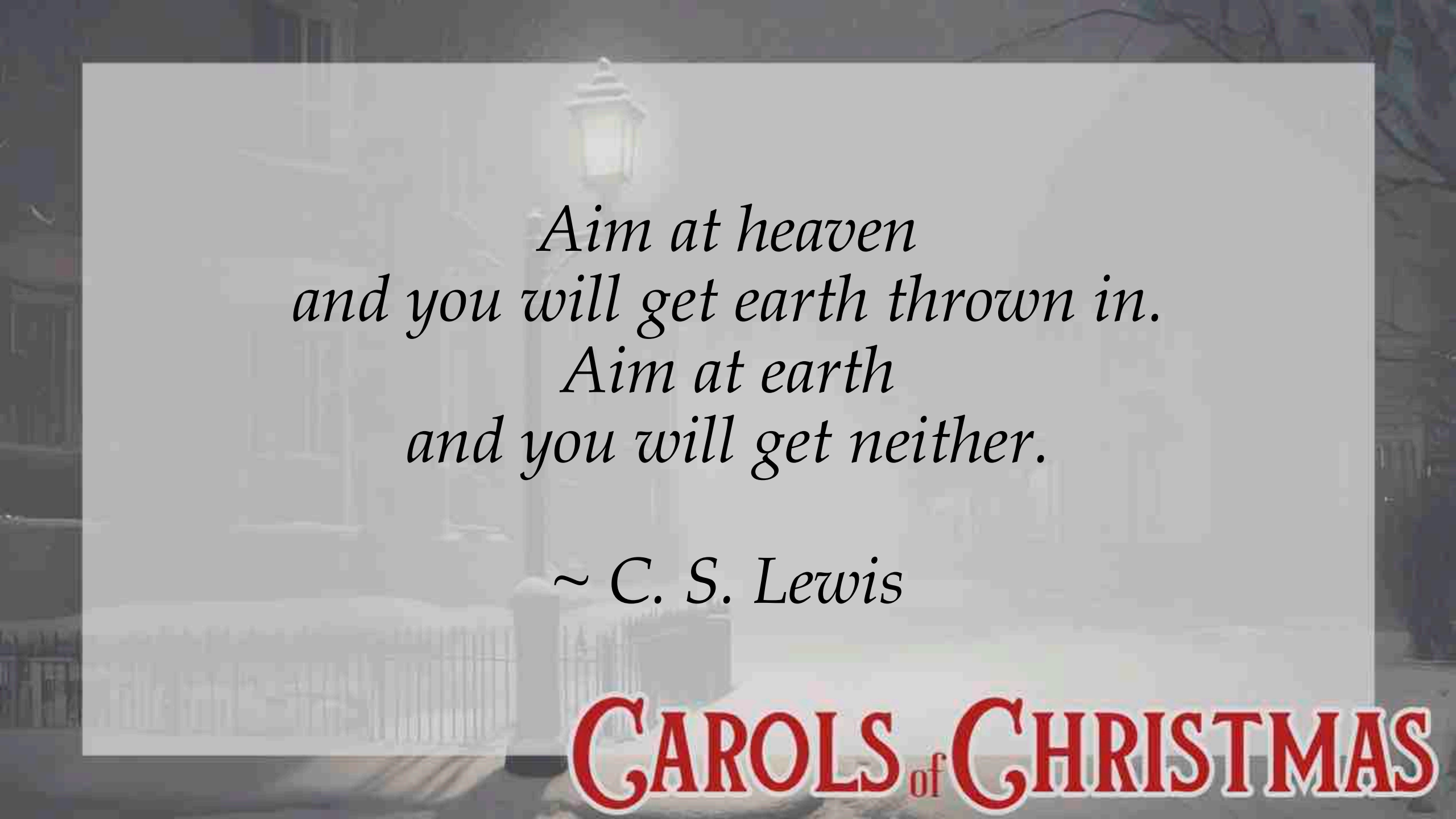
**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

How can we have Joy in this world?

1. Experience Joy from what Jesus has done.
2. Experience Joy from what Jesus is doing.
3. Experience Joy from what Jesus will do.

Conclusion: Put on Joy to the World Glasses

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

A soft-focus, winter-themed background image showing a snow-covered street. A classic street lamp with a glowing light is positioned in the upper center. In the foreground, a white metal fence runs across the frame. The overall atmosphere is quiet and serene.

*Aim at heaven  
and you will get earth thrown in.  
Aim at earth  
and you will get neither.*

*~ C. S. Lewis*

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

The gospel is less about how  
to get into the Kingdom of Heaven  
after you die,  
and more about how  
to live in the Kingdom of Heaven  
before you die.

~ Dallas Willard

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

## Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart.  
And do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
and He will make your paths straight.  
(NASB)

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**



## Romans 12:2

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world,  
but let God transform you into a new person  
by changing the way you think.

Then you will learn to know God's will for you,  
which is good and pleasing and perfect. (NLT)

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

## 1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or anything in the world.

If anyone loves the world,

love for the Father is not in them.

For everything in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – comes not from the Father but from the world.

The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (NIV)

**CAROLS** of **CHRISTMAS**

Joy to the  
World!



CAROLS of CHRISTMAS