

*Christmas* The Gift of Hope

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Craig Smith • God's Love • December 24, 2020

**Christmas was God's declaration to the world that He loves us...**

*This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10)*

*"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)*

**The Father's love in sending the Son offers us the hope of...**

- **A new life with God** – *"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy...so that having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:4, 7)*

*And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. (Rom. 5:5)*

- **A new way to love** – *"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Eph. 5:1-2)*
- **A new start tomorrow** – *"I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lam. 3:20-23)*
- **A new power to help** – *"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness." (2 Pet. 1:3)*

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 13:13)*

*"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come and has redeemed His people." (Luke 1:68)*