

Last week I asked my granddaughter a common question this time of year, “What do you want for Christmas?” I realized I’ve never asked God that question. “What does God want this Christmas?” There are two items on God’s Xmas list every year...John 1:14-18

**1. God wants to be known.** Albert Einstein met Charlie Chaplin in 1931. Einstein: “What I admire about your art is its universality. You do not say a word, yet the world understands you.” Chaplin: “That’s true, but your fame is even greater. The world admires you when no one understands you.”

Unlike Chaplin and Einstein, God has used words and has made Himself understood. Did you catch v. 18? “No one has seen God at any time; the only-begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.” That’s the reason for the season. God wants us to know Him. What does God want us to know? The Christmas story provides the answer. Listen to it again, “The Word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled) among us.” He pitched His tent among us. What is the point? God wants a relationship.

When I think of God “tabernacling” with me, I think back to my childhood when a friend would come over and we would pitch a tent in our back yard. God wants to know us and be known by us. He wants to be on familiar terms with us.

Our God is a good and gracious friend. We get hints of this even in the OT Law. Moses became a little insecure about God’s presence, so He made a bold request, “Show me your glory I pray.” Reveal yourself to me. And God agreed. What would you expect to come next? Thunderbolts? Pyrotechnic special effects? A laser light show? “Show me your glory God.” And God said, “I will make my goodness pass by you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” Ex. 33:19. God’s glory is revealed in His goodness.

What was a shadow in the OT becomes a reality in the NT. No human being struggles with the notion that God is powerful. He is omnipotent. But Almighty God announced His coming to simple shepherds, He spent 9 months in the womb of a young girl, He was born in a room normally occupied by animals, that is harder to believe. God put on flesh, became like us, moved in with us, so that we would know His glory.

One of Jesus’s disciples, Philip, wanted to know God. One day he said to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus said, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?’” John 14:9-10a. It is impossible to know God without believing in His Son. God wants to be known.

**2. God wants to be shown.** Jesus came to show forth the glory of God. A “show off” is someone who tries to impress others for their own glory. God has every right to show off. We should be stunned by the glory of God like the Psalmist, “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Ps. 8:3-4

God’s primary purpose is to show off His glory. Glory is the visible manifestation of the invisible God. Glory is that stuff that “shone round about” the shepherds who were out keeping watch over their flocks by night. Glory is what the multitude of the heavenly host were saying, “Glory to God in the highest.” Glory is the fingerprints of God left behind to prove His activity in our lives. John says, “No one has seen God at any time.” v. 18. Well, if you can’t see Him how can you know anything about Him? Up until that first Christmas men and women had to settle for a fingerprint. His prints are all over the place.

His fingerprints are on the heavens. “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.” Ps. 19:1-2. Cosmic events reveal something about God. The wise men came from the east – East Texas because they were “following yonder star.” God used that celestial body as a reliable GPS device directing them to the King of Kings.

His fingerprints are found in the Law. vv. 16-17 The Law reveals more about God than nature can. The Law expresses the mind of God. The Law teaches us that God is holy, righteous, just, etc. but the Law does not tell the whole story. “The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves.” Heb. 10:1

God wasn’t content to show off His glory in the heavens and the Law, “in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being...” Heb. 1:2-3. It is in Christ that God shows up in all His glory. John said, “We beheld His glory.” Jesus is the fullest expression of God the world will ever know. And just think, He wants to come to your house and “tabernacle” with you.

Growing up, I occasionally fantasized about one of my heroes coming to my house. That actually happened to a pastor named John Ortberg. Here is how he tells the story...

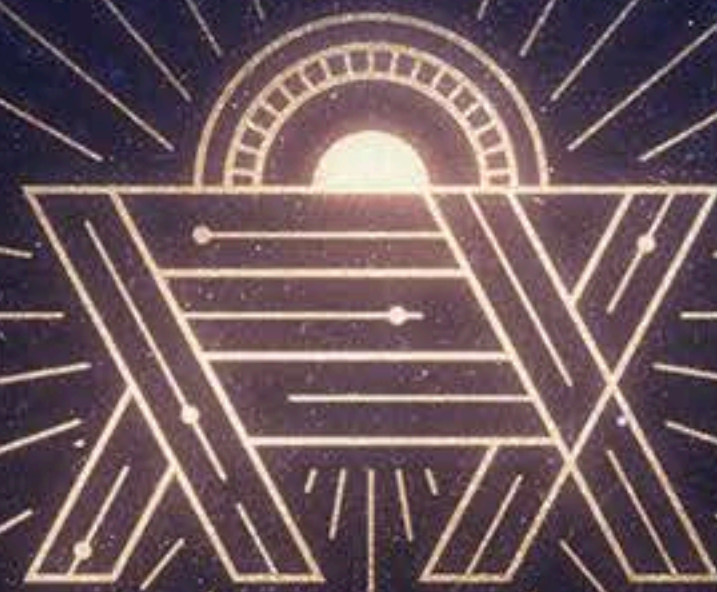
God is good and gracious, and He wants to come to your house this Christmas. He wants you to know that He is your biggest fan. And He wants you to know Him and make Him known. Jesus, who claimed to be the “light of the world” one day proclaimed to His followers, “You are the light of the world.”

Close by taking the candle representing Him who is the light of the world and passing that light to one another as we close...



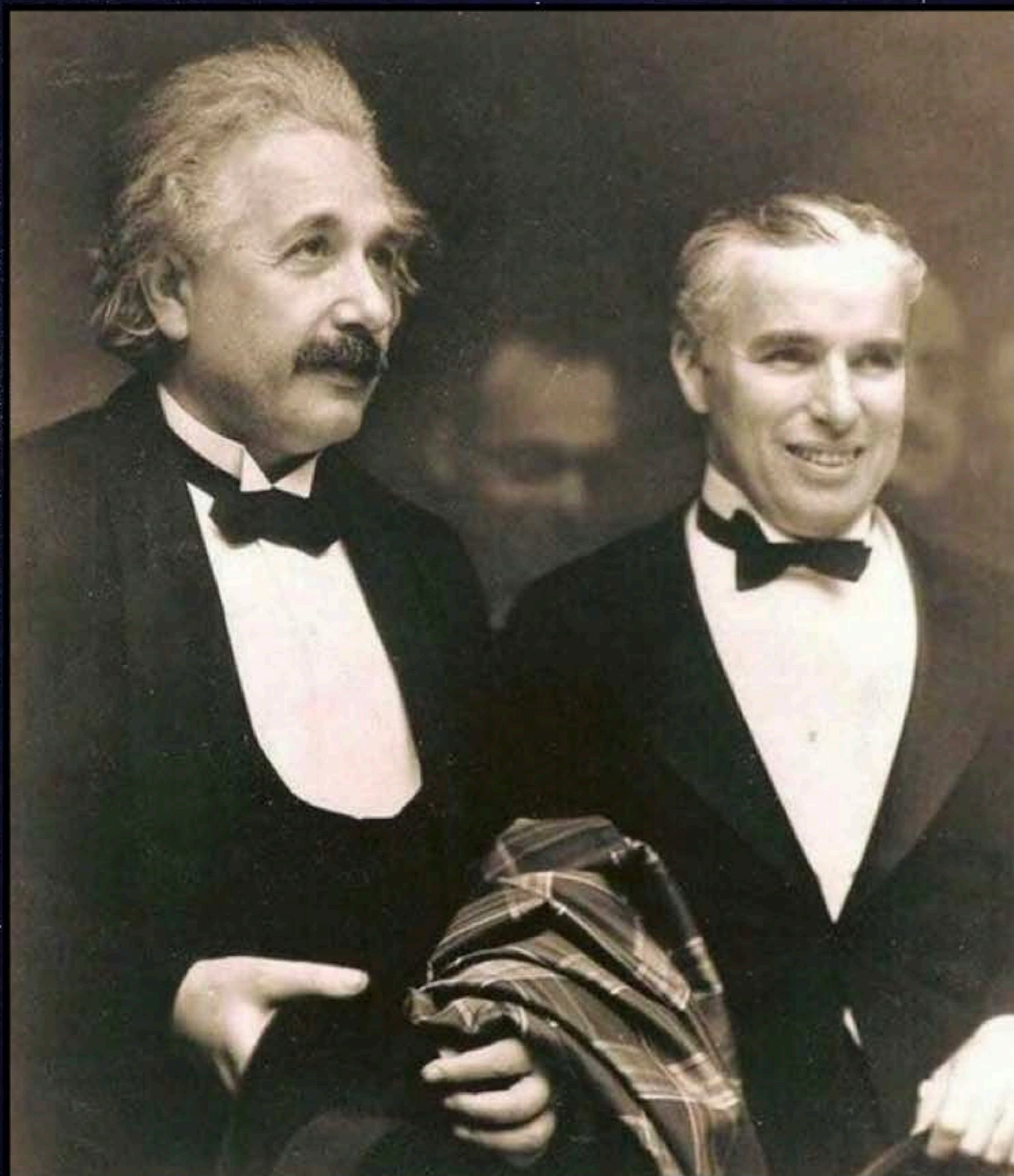
# ADVENT

T H E C H R I S T H A S C O M E



**“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’) 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.”**

**JOHN 1:14-18**



The image features a dark blue, textured background. A thin, gold-colored border with Art Deco-style corner ornaments frames the entire page. The text "GOD WANTS TO BE KNOWN." is centered in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

**GOD WANTS TO BE KNOWN.**

**“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’) 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.”**

**JOHN 1:14-18**

The image features a dark blue, textured background. A thin, gold-colored border with Art Deco-style corner ornaments frames the entire page. The text "GOD WANTS TO BE SHOWN." is centered in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

**GOD WANTS TO BE SHOWN.**



**“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”**

**PSALM 19:1-2**

**“The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves.”**

**HEBREWS 10:1**

**“in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being...”**

**HEBREWS 1:2-3**