

Merry Christmas!

A Christmas Bible Study

Christmas Traditions

I don't know what your Christmas family traditions are, but I would hope that the reading of the Word of God is included on the agenda for Christmas Day. If it's not, make 2022 the year to start a new tradition! The Christmas story can be found in Luke's Gospel, chapter 2.

Luke 2:8-14

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. **I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.** Today in the town of David **a Savior has been born to you;** he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth **peace to those on whom his favor rests.**'"

Celebration

Christmas is about celebration. Turns out that God loves to throw a party. The birth of His Son would be a great celebration. The angels announced "**good new of great joy...**" The birth of Jesus demonstrates that **God is for us. He loves us, and He is with us.** That's reason to celebrate!

Often we look to our social media posts, our accomplishments, and even the logos we wear on our clothing to establish our identity. We wrestle to find significance and meaning in life. The most significant thing that could be said about each of us is that God is with us. He loves us. We matter.

Salvation

In the Christmas narrative you can't miss the salvation of God as it is delivered to all people – "**a Savior has been born to you.**" That is the true meaning of Christmas. **We need a Savior and God delivered one in Jesus Christ.** But remember, we are not simply saved **from hell** or saved **to heaven.** We are saved from our sin **for a purpose.** God has important work for His children.

- **Philippians 2:13**, "...it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."
- **Ephesians 2:10**, "...we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Reconciliation

"**Peace to those on whom His favor rests.**" The angels who announced the birth of Jesus said that peace can be found in Christ and that God's favor rests on His people. The birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus brought reconciliation to the world. The gift is for everyone. But you have to receive it. You have to accept it. Many people believe in Jesus but have not received His gift. Open His greatest gift. Take it! It's for you.

Merry Christmas!

So consider this...God gave us His greatest gift in Jesus Christ. The celebration, salvation, and reconciliation is His gift to you. When someone gives us a gift we usually feel compelled to give a gift in return, but what can you give God? He has everything! Give Him your time. Give Him your love. Give Him the first day of every week. Give Him your worship and respect. When you decide to believe, receive, and respond you are betting your life on the fact that God is right – not you. That is a very safe bet. Merry Christmas!

Prayer – "Father thank you for Jesus. We want to receive Him and respond to Him. Amen."