Dec.1, 2022

 To all of you, I would like to wish you and your love ones a very, very Merry Christmas and New year. Like everyone else, we’ll be shopping for gifts for those people on our list, preparing your house for the guest you’ll be receiving, deciding what the dinner to serve and of course the opening of the Christmas gifts. All this is just fine but where is Jesus in all of this? Christmas is all about Him and Him alone.

 As you gather with your family and friends, read from scripture of His birth which is found in

**Luke 2:1 – 20**. To some of you it’s been a tradition to read this scripture and to some it could be your first time. Either way, it’s a great blessing to celebrate Christmas in this manner. Also, I will be Emailing to you on Dec 20th a poem called “**Twas the night before Jesus came”**. Why am I waiting to Email the poem you say? Because it will be fresh on your mind to consider reading it Christmas eve to family and friends. Some of you might recall the poem because it was part of the **BSL** from last Christmas.

In keeping with the Christmas spirit, the topic of the **Bible Scripture Letter** for the month of December is ***“What is the meaning of Christmas”*** and ***“Why do we celebrate Christmas”.***You might consider reading this topic to your family and guest also.

Your Brother in Christ, Tony Gonzalez

**1 Peter 3:15**

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and

**What is the true meaning of Christmas?**

The true meaning of Christmas is love. [**John 3:16-17**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%203.16-17)says, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love.

The real Christmas story is the story of God’s becoming a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ. Why did God do such a thing? Because He loves us! Why was Christmas necessary? Because we needed a Savior! Why does God love us so much? Because He is love itself - [**1 John 4:8**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20John%204.8)**.**

* **8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Why do we celebrate Christmas each year? Out of gratitude for what God did for us, we remember His birth by giving each other gifts, worshiping Him, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate.

 The true meaning of Christmas is love. God loved His own and provided a way—the only Way—for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His only Son to take our punishment for our sins. He paid the price in full, and we are free from condemnation when we accept that free gift of love.

[**Romans 5:8**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%205.8)

* "But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

**Why do we celebrate Christmas?**

Christians the world over celebrate [**Christmas**](https://www.gotquestions.org/Christmas-true-meaning.html)in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. Various Christmas traditions have been associated with the celebration of Christmas, and different cultures celebrate different ways. The unifying factor is the historical fact that Jesus was born,[**c. 5 BC**](https://www.gotquestions.org/what-year-was-Jesus-born.html). The angel who appeared to the shepherds the night of Jesus’ birth said, *“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”* - [**Luke 2:10–11**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%202.10%E2%80%9311)**.**

We celebrate Christmas because, as the angel said, the birth of Jesus Christ is “good news.” Good news is meant to be celebrated. In fact, the angel said the news of Jesus’ birth would cause “great joy” and would be “for all the people”—the joyful celebration would be universal. People around the globe would be glad for this occasion.

 We celebrate Christmas because, as the angel said, *“A Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”* - [**Matthew 1:21**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%201.21)**.**The three titles the angel applies to Jesus are important. Jesus is the *Savior* who delivers us from sin and death**.** He is the human *Messiah* (or Christ) who fulfills the Law and the Prophets, showing that God is faithful - [**Matthew 5:17**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%205.17)**.**

* ***17*** *“Do not think that I have come to abolishthe Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*

And He is the divine *Lord* who has entered our world: The Almighty has taken on human flesh; God and man have been fused together in an indivisible, eternal bond; God is truly with us **-** [**Matthew 1:23**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%201.23)**.**

* **23** “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

 In celebrating Christmas, we celebrate the Savior, because we needed deliverance. We celebrate the Christ in whom all of God’s promises are “Yes” and “Amen” **-** [**2 Corinthians 1:20**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor%201.20)**.**

* **20** For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

We celebrate the Lord who in humility took on “the very nature of a servant” for our sakes **-**[**Philippians 2:6–8**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Phil%202.6%E2%80%938)**.**

* **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
* **7**but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,being born in the likeness of men.
* **8**And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

We celebrate Christmas with gift-giving because of the *“indescribable gift”* that God gave to us [**2 Corinthians 9:15**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor%209.15)**.** We celebrate Christmas by stringing lights because the Light of the world has come to us **-** [**John 1:4**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%201.4)**;**[**Isaiah 9:2**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%209.2)**.**

**John 1:4**

* **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

[**Isaiah 9:2**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%209.2)

* **2** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

We celebrate Christmas with carols and choirs because they are expressive of joy and follow the examples of Mary and Zacharias and Simeon and the angels, all of whom extolled the Lord in poetry **-** [**Luke 1–2**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%201%E2%80%932)**.** We celebrate Christmas by decorating evergreen trees with stars and angels and tinsel because of the eternal life Jesus brings - [**John 4:14**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%204.14)—and stars and angels and beauty were all associated with Jesus’ birth.

 In celebrating Christmas we celebrate the love and condescension of God. In Texas in 1987, a toddler by the name of Jessica McClure fell into an eight-inch well casing. Down she went, becoming stuck twenty-two feet below ground. Once people discovered that “Baby Jessica” was in the well, they took immediate action. They didn’t tell her to find a way to climb back up, and they didn’t just shout happy thoughts to encourage her. No, *they went down to where she was and got her*. They did whatever it took. Rescuers worked nonstop for fifty-eight hours to free her.

 In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve fell. Down they went, dragging [**all humanity**](https://www.gotquestions.org/fall-affect-humanity.html)with them into the darkness and death of sin. And what did God do? He did not tell us to find our own way out of the mess we were in, and He did more than shout down happy thoughts to us from heaven. No, *He came down to where we were and got us*. That’s what Christmas is all about—God’s coming down to rescue us, to do whatever it took to deliver us from sure death.

 When even one person is in a life-threatening situation, we understand what has to be done. When God looked down at our sinful planet, He saw a whole world of people in mortal danger. We celebrate Christmas because it was at Christmas time that the Rescuer of all mankind came to save us from the hopeless situation we were in. God did not stay in heaven; He came down to where we are.

*Sources:* <https://www.gotquestions.org>