

GOT CHRIST?

Maybe 2020 was one of your worst years ever. But this Christmas could be the best ever. How? Make it so. Peer through the gloom. Look past the glows and glitters. Can you see it? The best gift ever. Jesus the Christ. The Overcomer! Yours to receive!

Advent prepares your heart for the Lord. He prophesied the Savior for thousands of years. He points to the prince of peace who comes to make peace with God for you. This yields great inexpressible joy, salvation of your eternal soul. In God's everlasting love, He gave.

1- GOT GOOD NEWS? - Isaiah 52:7 says "*how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, your God reigns.*" This is great good news!

The prophets foretold the Christ. John the Baptist came as His forerunner, declaring His coming. Repent and believe in Christ Jesus, he declared, turn away from darkness and sin, embrace the light of the Savior and receive forgiveness of your sins of disobedience to God.

2- GOT BIG NEEDS? - We don't like the word sin, but the Bible presents God's salvation because of the reality of sin. You need a Savior. That's why Jesus came. Because you can do nothing about sin on your own. John 3:16 proclaims, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." He is the way.

All that troubles you in the world is the result of sin. You were born a sinner, because of Adam and Eve. But as soon as they sinned in Genesis 3, God promised a Savior. Sin is the curse that darkens all the world, and only the light of life, our Creator, can overcome it (John 1).

3- GOT GOD'S LOVE? - "*God is love*" and "*in this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (payment) for our sins*" (1 John 4:16, 10). He came into the world to secure eternal redemption from sin with His own blood (Hebrews 9:12), one sacrifice for all time (Hebrews 10:3-14) to fulfill God's new covenant promises.

Yes, God gave His Son in the flesh. Theologians call this the most incredible miracle of all, that the eternal God of the universe would become incarnate, taking on human flesh. This is the miracle of Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, fully divine, fully human, our Deliverer.

4- GOT GOD'S SON? - Galatians 4:4 says, "*When the fulness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman*" to redeem all who believe and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He is the offspring of the woman promised in Genesis 3:15, the hope of the ages.

It could not be more clear: "*This is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*" (1 John 5:11-13, John 1:11-13). You must receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. You admit you can do nothing to be saved, and put all your trust in Him for salvation.

5- GOT ETERNAL LIFE? - John says, "*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*" Receiving Jesus means you believe in Him with your whole being, heart and mind and will. Because you trust what God says. You step out in faith, believing God Himself, trusting Jesus alone as Lord and Savior.

Christ's birth brings new birth for you. Will you receive Him? This new spiritual eternal life in Christ begins the moment you believe, being born again from above by the Holy Spirit. No more fear! Living a new life, saved from the penalty and power of sin, and awaiting Christ's coming again to be saved from the presence of sin, in His promised new heavens and earth.

6- GOD'S GIFT TRANSFORMS! - Jesus is the gift you really need. Not nostalgic or whimsical. Real and practical, wonderful beyond imagination. God Himself, Creator of the Universe, stoops down to give this gift. To transform your life. Jesus must be received, humbly, personally.

Good news of great joy! Glory to God in the highest, peace to all who receive the Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord (Luke 2). You are given His new life within you, not for when you die, but so the rest of your life is lived for Christ (Galatians 2:20), full of His hope, peace, joy, love. Come what may in 2021, you will have His purpose, His promises, and His power! □

Daily Bible Reading12-20 **Isaiah 52:7-10** - *salvation*12-21 **Luke 1:68-79** - *promised*12-22 **1 John 4:7-21** - *God's love*12-23 **Hebrews 10:1-18** - *once*12-24 **Luke 2:1-21** - *unto you*12-25 **1 John 5:11-13** - *know*12-26 **Galatians 2:20** - *Christ*