

Looking at Christmas Differently
December 20 & 21, 2008

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others, the armies of heaven, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” Luke chapter 2 verses 13 & 14 (781)

- “Glory to God in the highest” - honor to the Supreme God!
- “Peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased” - rest & satisfaction to all people!

Jesus came to earth and became my brother! - *Hebrews chapter 2 verse 11 (921)*

Speaking of Mary giving birth to Jesus, the Bible says, ***“She will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” Matthew chapter 1 verse 23 (733)***

The Word (Jesus) became human and made His home among us.

John chapter 1 verse 14 (809)

The answer to the loneliness in my life is Christmas. That’s when Jesus showed up on earth and wrapped His arms around me!

God wants to be present in my life!

God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

1 John chapter 4 verses 9-11 (943)

God doesn’t force His presence on anyone. He always waits for us to invite Him into our lives.

- ***But to all who believed Jesus and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.*** *John chapter 1 verse 12 (809)*

God doesn’t love me because I’m good or good-looking or real-good at something. He loves me because He simply chose to love me the way I am!

- ***The Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With His love, He will calm all your fears. He will rejoice (dance!) over you with joyful songs.*** *Zephaniah chapter 3 verse 17 (717)*

(over)

Jesus came to take away my sin...so I don't have to hide from Him anymore!

- “To take away our sins” literally means to settle the wrath for
- God’s wrath for me and my sins were settled & satisfied in Jesus!

Because of God’s love in my life, I can have healthy relationships with those around me!

- When I am connected right with God, I can be connected right with people!

At Christmas time, when I see presents, let it remind me of God’s presence in my life!

More

- What do each of the following verses teach me about God’s love for me & His presence in my life??
 - Matthew 1:18-23
 - Luke 1:26-38
 - John 1:1-14
 - Romans 4:5
 - Romans 5:1-2

- When did I invite Jesus into my life to be the forgiver of my sins, my Savior? If I’ve never done this, what am I waiting for?
- What are the greatest ways that I need to live out the reality of God’s presence in my life?
- In what ways do I hide from God? From others? How is today’s talk going to help me come out of hiding?
- What changes do I need to make in my relationships so they reflect the health & love of God’s relationship with me?

Plan on attending one of our Christmas Eve services. Three to choose from:

- Tuesday, December 23, at 7 pm
- Wednesday, December 24, at 3 pm & 5 pm