

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

John 3:16a (tlb) God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son...

When Jesus entered the world, He entered just like everybody else – as a baby!

For unto us a child is born... Isaiah 9:6

But Jesus was no ordinary child.

As a child, Jesus amazed people by His wisdom and knowledge.

As a man Jesus performed amazing miracles to ultimately die a horrible death on a Roman cross.

In fact, **Jesus was born into a death sentence!**

Jesus went from the crib to the cross, becoming our Saviour, by providing for us forgiveness and eternal life.

It was always God's intention to reconcile man back to Himself because of sin.

WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS BECAUSE GOD FORGAVE US THROUGH JESUS.

*All of us have sinned yet now God declares us 'not guilty' of offending Him if we trust in Christ who freely takes away our sin. **Romans 3:23-24** (tlb)*

Guilt robs us of contentment and hope.

Guilt causes emotional baggage and if not dealt with, it will gnaw away like a dripping tap.

There is only one effective solution to deal with guilt!

God's forgiveness through Jesus clears our conscious, releasing us from the grip of guilt.

God's forgiveness is **INSTANT**.

God's forgiveness is **UNDESERVED**.

God's forgiveness is **COMPLETE**.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Isaiah 43:25 (nlt) I alone will blot out your sins for My own sake and will never think of them again.

Life lesson: **What God forgets, we should forget too!**

WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS BECAUSE OUR FUTURE CAN BE GUARANTEED.

Hebrews 9:27 It's appointed unto man once to die.

Death is no respecter of person!

Hebrews 2:14-15 (gnb) "... Jesus became like us (human) ... to set free those who were slaves all their lives because of their fear of death."

How does Jesus set us free from the 'fear' of death?

By receiving His gift of assurance of where we will spend eternity once we depart this world!

For the Christ follower, death is a homecoming, a transition to better things!

John 3:16b ...that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

At Christmas time, probably the most used word we hear is "gift".

God has two gifts for us, and they are wrapped up in one big gift - Jesus Christ!

Have you received...

- God's gift of **FORGIVENESS.**

“Let us praise God for the free gift He gave us in His Son ... we are set free, our sins are forgiven.” Ephesians 1:4-7

- God’s gift of **ETERNAL LIFE**.

The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

How do we receive God's gift of Jesus?

By firstly believing that Jesus died for us as our substitute for the forgiveness of our sins.

Are you prepared to give Jesus an opportunity in your life?

Are you prepared to make a commitment to Him?

Don’t let another Christmas pass, by refusing God’s precious gift of Jesus!