



Most people don't understand the full significance of why Christians celebrate Christmas. The world has no idea what it's all about. Until Jesus' birth, sin separated mankind from God; Jesus' coming erased that separation. Christ was God's greatest gift to us. Meditating on the real reason for the holiday allows us to immerse ourselves in the full meaning of Christmas, which is ultimately about the Spirit of God operating in our lives.

Taking into account the environment we live in, it's easy to forget the purpose of this holiday and exalt Santa Claus, elves, and red-nosed reindeers. None of them are found anywhere in the Word of God. Christmas is all about the birth of a Saviour that the world desperately needed thousands of years ago, and still needs now. *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"* (Luke 2:11-14). No matter how good things are going or how great anyone thinks they are, there will come a day when everyone realizes they need a Saviour.

We need to dissect this passage of Scripture, because the world has given it a sugar-coated, religious meaning. We all know Jesus' power and

might, but before He got to be that way, He was born in the lowliest, most humble of places—a manger. A feeding trough for animals isn't a luxurious item; being born in one demonstrated true humility.

Another thing we need clarity on is the angels' declaration about peace on earth. Traditionally, we're accustomed to singing Christmas carols about peace on earth and goodwill toward men; however, most people don't have any idea what that means. The context for this dates all the way back to the enmity between God and man that resulted from Adam and Eve's sin in the garden of Eden. To end the enmity, Jesus was born as God's peace offering to mankind.

The purpose for Jesus coming to earth was to erase the chasm between God and man. Our sins could have destroyed us and sent us to hell, but Jesus came as a Saviour to take all the punishment for our sins on Himself and satisfy God's divine justice. Jesus was literally peace in human form, because His birth ended the war between God and sin.

Part of our holiday celebrations include a Christmas tree with gifts under it. Jesus was God's gift to us; His choice to hang on a tree when He was crucified is a helpful lens through which to view this holiday tradition. Jesus shed His blood and died on that tree to provide us with some life-

WE HAVE ACCESS TO GOD

changing gifts that we could never purchase on our own.

Peace with God is one of those gifts. A gift is something we don't have to work for or earn; it's something we don't have to beat ourselves up to try to deserve. It's time for us to receive this gift by faith. *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Romans 5:1).

Access to God, with no need to gain permission from anyone, is another gift that was presented to us because Jesus went on the cross. *"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God"* (Romans 5:2). We have full access to His undeserved, unearned favor, without having to work for it. This is something that wasn't available before Jesus came; we therefore need to take advantage of that access.

Other gifts Jesus made available to us are hope, triumph in trouble, deliverance from God's wrath,

and the Holy Spirit to guide us through life. These are gifts directly from heaven and allow us to live in the peace, victory, and love that our Father wants us to have. Accepting them allows us to see Christmas in a whole new light.

Taffi and I love you and pray for you every day. May the blessing of God be on you and your family. Remember, Jesus is Lord, and *"...in all of your getting, get understanding."*

In Expectation,



Creflo Dollar

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Download ***Jesus: Our gift from God*** at creflodollarministries.org/CDMFreeMessage

"THEREFORE BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST" (ROMANS 5:1).

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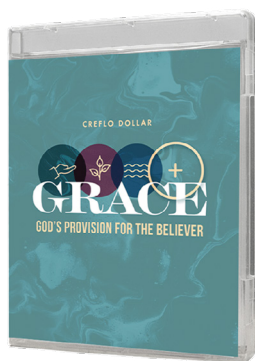
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DECEMBER CONFESSIONS

Peace AND ACCESS

Jesus' birth brought peace to me that the world can't take away. **(Rom. 5:1)**

As God's child, I have access to Him without permission from anyone else. **(Rom. 5:2)**

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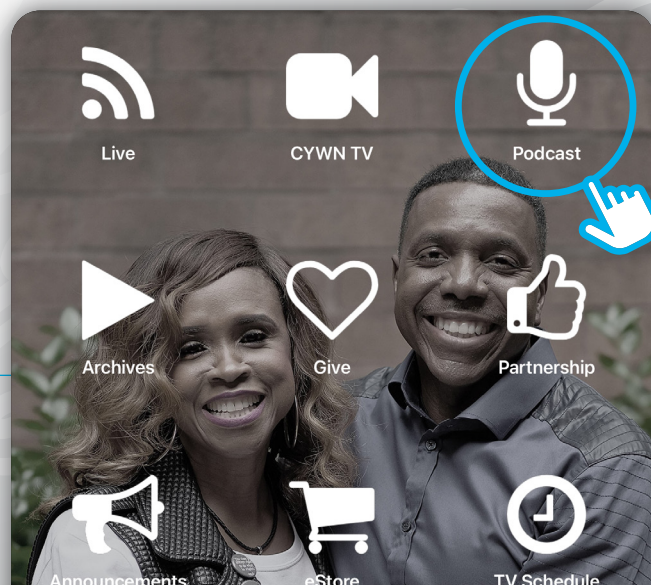
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PARTNER PRAYER CALL

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Meeting ID: 472 893 728#



Join with Partners from all over the World on **Friday, 30 December** and the **last Friday of each month at 4pm BST** as we pray corporately for the body of Christ.

* Please note, this is a USA phone number and long distance charges may apply **

NEW EMERGENCY FIELD HOSPITAL DEPLOYED IN UKRAINE



Samaritan's Purse has deployed our Emergency Field Hospital to a recently liberated area in Ukraine. Our facility opened 3rd October, and we are already treating patients and performing surgeries. Our DC-8 aircraft is scheduled to bring more medical supplies this week.

The Ukrainian Ministry of Health has asked Samaritan's Purse to provide medical support to these areas where the need is great. We continue to work in cooperation with local partners.

Samaritan's Purse also continues to treat patients through an emergency outpatient medical facility in southwestern Ukraine.

In addition to our medical work, we are providing food and non-food items to suffering families in Ukraine. In partnership with local churches, we are transporting these urgently needed relief supplies to families suffering in areas impacted by conflict.

Samaritan's Purse has served more than 6 million people throughout the first seven months of this response. We have distributed over 33,000 metric tons of food within Ukraine in partnership with the local church. Our water systems and newly constructed freshwater wells have provided more than 15 million liters of water to Ukrainians.

Thirty-one airlift missions have brought relief for those struggling inside Ukraine. Twenty-nine of these have been carried out through our DC-8 cargo jet, bringing in hundreds of tons of relief items, including our Emergency Field Hospital, medical supplies, food, and hygiene kits.

We operated an Emergency Outpatient Clinic in central Ukraine and our Emergency Field Hospital in Lviv earlier this year; both closed in mid-June. Through these two facilities, we treated more than 5,000 patients—a large part of the more than 18,000 patients we've cared for thus far in Ukraine.

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OUR VISION

As we proclaim Jesus, the Christ, as the Head of the Church and the manifested Word of God, our goal is to teach the Word of God with simplicity and understanding so that it may be applied to our everyday lives in a practical and effective manner; thereby being transformed into World Changers—changing our immediate world and all those with whom we come in contact—ultimately making a mark that cannot be erased.

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