**25/12/2022 Ten Important Reminders about Christmas**

**By pastor David**

Merry Christmas, in the Christmas season with its Christmas trees, bright lights and shopping sprees, it is full of excitement! What many people forget, though, is that this celebration has a deeper meaning behind all the fun, food and family gatherings.

Coming up are 10 reminders of the true meaning of Christmas for you to think about!

**10. Christmas is a time of self-disclosure**

**John 1:14**

**14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

* You may be wondering who this self-disclosure refers to. Well, there is so much about God that man will never comprehend, even with all that has been revealed to this point. At Christmas, however, God chose to reveal the nature of His heart and mind towards His creation – that He loved them enough to sacrifice His son Jesus, and that Jesus chose to become flesh and dwell on earth.

**9. Christmas brings a message of hope**

**John 8:12**

**12Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

* As nations go through political turmoil, wars, natural disasters and pandemics, hope among their citizens begins to reduce. Focusing on the real meaning of Christmas however gives people hope, because they know that Jesus came to earth to give them an opportunity to have a relationship with Him, and to give those who accept His salvation and believe in Him an eternal hope.

**8. Christmas shows divine involvement**

**Hebrews 4:15-16**

**15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

* God’s divine involvement in the lives of people is another reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. He did not just send Jesus as an adult to drop down on earth and start doing miracles. The Father let Jesus come to earth from the beginning stage of life – infancy, and let Him live all the way to adulthood, so that men would identify with Him, and so that He could experience all that His people were going through. Jesus was made just like you.

**7. Christmas is built on singularity**

**John 14:6**

**6Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

* Christmas is a reminder that through Jesus, the Father made only one provision for the sins of the world. That is why the birth of Jesus is such an important event. There had never been another such birth, and there will never be another one, because of the weight that this birth carried – forgiveness of sins.

**6. Christmas celebrates Jesus for leaving His home in heaven for the sake of mankind**

**Philippians 2:6-7**

**6Who, being in very nature God,
    did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
7rather, he made himself nothing
    by taking the very nature of a servant,
    being made in human likeness.**

* Do you often think about what Jesus left behind to come to the earth and eventually die for your sins? Jesus had everything, yet He sacrificed it all to come to the earth and provide a way for people to renew their relationship with God. That alone is cause for celebration!

**5. Christmas is part of God’s redemption plan**

**Ephesians 1:4-7a**

**4For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,**

* The birth of Jesus was not random. Everything was planned meticulously from the beginning, from His birth all the way to His resurrection and ascension into heaven. God intended for people to turn to Him in repentance, and to experience forgiveness of sins through His son Jesus.

**4. Christmas is a reminder of God’s fulfilled prophecy**

**Isaiah 9:6-7**

**6For to us a child is born,
    to us a son is given,
    and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
    Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
    Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7Of the greatness of his government and peace
    there will be no end.
He will reign on David’s throne
    and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
    with justice and righteousness
    from that time on and for ever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
    will accomplish this.**

* The prophecy in the book of Isaiah referring to the birth of Jesus came several years before it actually happened, and when it did happen, it was a glorious event! Christmas is a great reminder that God fulfils His prophecies, and His promises.

**3. Christmas celebrates God’s love for us**

**John 3:16-17**

**16For 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. 17For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.**

* God’s love is integral to the true meaning of Christmas, because if He did not love the world as He did, He would not have sent His Son to die on the cross. Christmas is a reminder to the world that God loves everyone, and that through His son Jesus, He made the forgiveness of sins possible.

**2. Christmas celebrates the gift of salvation**

**Romans 6:23**

**23For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

* As people unpack their Christmas gifts, they often forget the most important gift – salvation. Jesus was born on the earth so that He could then die for the sins of the world, creating a bridge between God and man. God graciously and mercifully gives this gift to all, because He knows that nobody deserves it. What a gift!

**1. Christmas celebrates Jesus as Saviour**

**Hebrews 9:27-28**

**27Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**

* Jesus did what no man could have done – He left His home in heaven to come to earth and give His life for the sin of the world. Jesus knew that He would eventually die on the cross, but He chose to come to this world as an infant anyway. Christmas celebrates the Saviour and the sacrifice that He made so that mankind could have restored fellowship with God.
* One day he will come to take us to eternal home in heaven then the salvation for those who believe in Him will be complete.

May we ponder and meditate on these scriptures we read this morning and rejoice in what God has done for us 2000 years ago when Jesus came to the earth.