

## What Does Christmas Mean to me?

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It's amazing how simple some things really are. That's my grandson (**Luke**). He asked his dad after the Christmas program last week, "Dad, how many did we save in the program?" His theology may need a little correcting, but his heart doesn't. (**By the way five people accepted Christ or rededicated their lives**) Luke is passionate for people to be saved. He said, "Dad, we saved 5 last year in the program, how many did we save this year?" **He remembered how many were saved last year.** A few weeks ago, he witnessed to one of his neighborhood friends and came in and told his dad. He said, 'Daddy, I saved so-and-so today! I didn't want him to go to hell.'" What does Christmas mean to me? To my Grandson Luke, it means getting people saved.

Maybe we can learn something from my grandson.

### What Does Christmas Mean to me?

It means God gave me the gift of life through Jesus. Think about it (**The gift of life**) you are alive, you have life inside of you, you still have the ability to make decisions (right or wrong) and you can still do more for God in the future, Think about it, this wonderful precious gift called life is inside you now (presently), as you leave this building in a few minutes you have life flowing through you, your heart is pumping, your lungs are expanding with every breath, the kidneys, liver, pancreas and all the other organs with every nerve, vessels, capillaries everything that it takes to produce life are working inside you, you have this great gift of life!! **What are you doing with it?** A question greater than that is; **What are you going to do with it if God permits you to have this gift another year?** Your plans for the future are important; yesterday is in the tomb of time, the past is gone never to be relived again. Tomorrow is in the womb of time, we were not sure of our future on this earth.

**We do have today, what are you going to do with it?**

Listen to Paul as he realized the gift of life was nearly over for him.

**2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NIV)** it is not a reality in your life yet

<sup>6</sup> For **I am already** being poured out like a drink offering, and **the time has come** for my departure. <sup>7</sup> **I have fought** the good fight, I have finished the race, **I have kept** the faith. <sup>8</sup> **Now** there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

OK,

It's amazing how simple some things really are. Take the Bible, for instance. At first glance, it's an intimidating book filled with strange names, places we've never heard of, books we can't pronounce, and verses we don't understand. Even people who have read the Bible for years still have trouble understanding parts of it. Sometimes it helps to remember that the message of the Bible is not very complicated. Here's **"The Bible in 50 words."** That wouldn't seem possible because the Bible is such a big book. But here it is.

God made

Adam bit

Noah arked

Abraham split

Jacob fooled

Joseph ruled

Bush talked

Moses balked

Pharaoh plagued

People walked

Sea divided

Tablets guided

Promise landed

Saul freaked

David peeked

Prophets warned

Jesus born

God walked

Love talked

Anger crucified

Hope died

Love rose

Spirit flamed

Word spread

God remained.

That's my Christian rap for today 😊

I don't know who wrote that, but whoever it was did a fine job. You can quibble with what is left out—and you can question certain phrases such as “Saul freaked,” which isn't entirely clear, but no matter what it means, it rhymes quite well with “David peeked,” which is in fact entirely correct.

I like it for a second reason that goes beyond the cleverness factor.

It reminds us, that the deepest truths are actually quite simple.

Ok then, What does Christmas means to me?

It all comes down to one simple fact:

At Bethlehem a baby was born who was God in human flesh. **John1:1-13**

This is the central truth of the Christian faith—that God became a man, that's Christmas. **Everything else we believe derives from that essential truth.**

With that in mind, let's return to “**The Bible in 50 words.**”

Here is the **life of Christ in just 12 words:**

Jesus born

God walked

Love talked

Anger crucified

Hope died

Love rose

Not bad. You can always add to that, but as it stands, it's an excellent summary of the greatest story ever told—the life of Jesus Christ on the earth.

I think the Apostle John would have liked that reading because he too had a habit of distilling great spiritual truths into just a few well-chosen words. You may recall that he's the author of the shortest verse in the Bible:???

“Jesus wept” (John 11:35).

John will illustrate his amazing ability to state huge spiritual truths in a handful of words.(74to be exact).

**John 1:10-13 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

He takes just 74 words to tell us what happened to Christ when he came to the earth. Those 74 words don't tell us everything, but they do tell how people responded to his coming. These verses answer a crucial question: If Jesus was the Son of God, **why did they crucify him?** If he really was “God walking” and “love talking,” **why did so many people want to kill to him?**