

Since we all desperately need Him...

Let Us Gladly Receive Him...

THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS!

Wednesday 12/25 at 10:00

The Nativity of Our Lord – 2019

Join Us: 12/28 4:00; 12/29 9:00 (BC 10:30); New Year's Eve 6:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: I'm so glad we are HERE, *on the very day we celebrate our Savior's birth*, to hear God's Word, sing God's praises, and receive the assurance that, *in the Christ of Christmas*, our sins are forgiven!

However, regarding Christmas in America, what are the trends? Here are four from a Pew Research poll:¹

- 1) How many Americans are celebrating Christmas? About 90%, **but less than half celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday...** and the numbers keep going down, *especially among Millennials* (those 22-37 years old).
- 2) Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays? *More and more are becoming comfortable with saying Happy Holidays.*
- 3) Religious displays on government property? *More and more say that such displays should NOT be allowed.*
- 4) What about the virgin birth, angelic announcement to shepherds, manger-bed, and wise men? About half believe such things, *with the numbers declining.*

Dear friends, even though many are trending away from God's Word of Truth and **the Christ of Christmas**, let us

¹ <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/12/18/5-facts-about-christmas-in-america/>

rejoice in ✦our God-given faith, ✦the forgiveness of our sins, and ✦the blessed eternity that is coming through Jesus!

Now, *we turn our attention to today's gospel reading*, which is packed with many wonderful realities about ✓the Son of God, ✓His coming into the world, and ✓our eternal blessings!

1. **The Son of God**: We are in **John chapter 1**:

a. Before creation: ¹ **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** ² **He was in the beginning with God.** ³ **All things were made through him, and without him not any thing was made that was made.** // Who is the Word who was with God in the beginning? **The Word is the Son of God!** He was **“begotten of His Father before all worlds”** (Nicene Creed). Also, the Father worked *through the Son* to make all things!

b. Life and light: What about those topics?

i. ⁴ **In him [the Son] was life, and the life was the light of men.**

1. Regarding life: Imagine a house with only ONE electrical outlet; *you must plugin there to get power.* Now, think of Jesus being the ONE source of life – *both physically and spiritually; physically—because, apart from Him, we do not exist, and spiritually—because, apart from Him, we are spiritually dead* (Eph. 2).

2. Regarding light: That is referring to God's truth, which shows us ✦*our sin* and ✦*God's rescue through Jesus!*

ii. ⁵ **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.** // We live in a dark world of sin and death, yet the Son of God is **shining the truth** **AND** the darkness CANNOT overpower it! *So we are on the WINNING team!*

2. **John the Baptizer Prepared the Way:** ⁶ **There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.** ⁷ **He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.** ⁸ **He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.** // John the Baptizer was the forerunner of the Christ, so He prepared the way by **calling people to repent** and **pointing them to Jesus!** How CAN WE do something similar in our lives toward others?

3. **The Son of God in Human Flesh:**

a. Rejected by many: ⁹ **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.** ¹⁰ **He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.** ¹¹ **He came to his own [to the Jews], and his own people did not receive him.**

i. Thinking about Jesus: Everyone has sinned, *so everyone needs Jesus!* However, many people are unaware of their need. Why? *Because they refuse to get into the Bible in a serious manner.* Everyone SHOULD receive Jesus, and yet sadly, *many reject Him.*

ii. A modern-day example: Steve Jobs founded the company we know as Apple;

then, some years later, *he was basically fired!* Wow, he was the CEO, *but the board fired him.* Oh, and Jesus, as the Son of God He created the world and, as the God-Man He would redeem the world, yet *His own people basically fired Him!*

- b. Received by some: ¹² **But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,** ¹³ **who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.** // Note the word “gave”; without God giving, *and giving freely*, no one could be a member of His family. God had to make the way through His Son; then, God had to enable us to take that way by grace through faith! *Now, we are born of God!*

4. **Conclusion:** ¹⁴ **And the Word [the Son] became flesh and dwelt among us [for a while, to remove our sins], and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.** // That is Christmas – THE WORD BECAME FLESH! Wow, we are so blessed because – with the eyes of our God-given faith – *we have seen and trust in the Christ of Christmas!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, *TYSM for taking away our sins!* Now, *as we celebrate Your birth with others*, help us to reflect Your light and speak God’s truth in love!