

## **The Greatest Gift of All**

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I want to shed light on what the true meaning of Christmas is and to share with you my personal beliefs about this holiday season. In the United States, Christmas time involves the colors red and green, wreaths, decorations of holiday cheer, Christmas trees, and at the center of all this, Santa Clause, flying reindeer, and gift giving. To children, Christmas is a magical time, a time of imagination and belief, in a fat, jolly old man who knows our every action, every deed, and every thought. At one point we all believed in Santa, but we grew up and faced the reality that he does not exist, and our parents and relatives are actually the gift givers. As a country, our eyes are blind to the real truth, the real way, and the real life which is the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ (John 14:6). We have become so distracted with the things of the world that we have lost sight of what is really important, both in the present and the eternal. Although the notion of contemporary Christmas season is based on the biblical principle of giving, our society has shied away from what I believe we should be focused on this time of year, and really every day of the year. That focus should be on the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **significance** of His birth, life, and death. Is it a mere coincidence that the word Christmas begins with Christ?

### **Why Jesus came, and why we all need Him**

The cause of all corruption, disease, turmoil, or anything of bad nature in this world is sin. Beginning at birth, we are all guilty of sin that we have inherited through the original sin that entered the world through Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Since the fall of man stated in Genesis, sin has corrupted this world and the people in it, leading their focus away from their Creator, to focus on earthly things that are eternally insignificant. Christmas time is about the birth of the Savior of the world; the birth of the One whose life was foretold in the Old Testament hundreds of years prior, that would break the stronghold of sin, and free the world from its grasp.

The greatest gift of all is the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As you give gifts this season, remember the greatest gift was given to you by God, that is Jesus. The Bible tells us how to accept this gift in [Acts 16:30, 31](#). A man asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And Jesus' followers replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved..." Most people assume they are saved because they believe Jesus lived 2000 years ago, did miracles, and died on the cross. But did you know most people who "believe" in Jesus Christ, are **NOT** saved or born again? This is because they are "believing" in only the historical sense, only acknowledging that Jesus was a character who lived long ago. They are not depending solely upon Jesus for their salvation.

The word "Believe" as used by Jesus in John's gospel is the Greek word "pisteuo" which is defined as "to trust in, to rely upon." The moment trust in Jesus Christ occurs, a person is "saved" for all eternity.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life". [John 3:36](#)

Notice in both verses you are not believing in Jesus, but "on" Jesus. This subtle difference shows that passive belief in Jesus is NOT what God requires, but rather, active dependence upon the person & work (His substitutionary death on the cross, His burial, and His rising from the dead to live for evermore) of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Which way are you "believing" in Jesus?**