

What Is Christmas All About?

1. Giving (John 3:16)

Christmas is about giving, but not in the way you might think. In preparation for Christmas, so many people give gifts to their loved ones. This is a fine way to show love others. The greatest gift to be given to any person was from God the Father to mankind. The gift was His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was the greatest gift, because of the work He was sent to accomplish, that only He could do.

Mankind has fallen away from God's good graces, because of our sin. Every one of us is a sinner (**Romans 3:10-23**) that has broken at least one of God's laws (**Exodus 20**). Because of our disobedience, we deserve God's judgment upon our sin, which is to suffer in Hell forever (**Romans 6:23**). The only way to avoid Hell is to have someone pay our sin debt for us. This is why God sent His Son (**Romans 5:8**).

Jesus Christ left His throne in Heaven. He left behind His glory and the adoration of the saints and angels in order to become one of us (**Philippians 2:5-10**). When He came to Earth, there was nothing about Jesus that made a person think that He was God in the flesh (**Isaiah 53:1-2**), but He was (**John 1:14**).

While on Earth, Jesus Christ was tempted, just like we are, except He did not sin even one time (**Hebrews 4:15**)! Because of this, envious men delivered Him up to the cross, where He was tortured, suffered, and died for mankind. While on that cross, Jesus took the sins of mankind upon Him and paid for all of them through the shedding of His blood (**Hebrews 9-10**). He died, was buried, and was resurrected three days later to prove His deity and God's acceptance of Jesus' payment for sin!

2. Receiving (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Christmas is also about receiving. Do you like gifts, cards, and visitors at Christmastime? There are few that do not! However, no matter how expensive the gift is that you receive this Christmas, there is one that will always be more expensive, until you receive it.

Jesus Christ paid your sin debt with His blood. He bore your sins and God's wrath upon them (**II Corinthians 5:21**). He forsook the comforts of Heaven to suffer on Earth for thirty-three years as a man. He did all this so that He could offer you the gift of eternal life.

This gift is just that: a gift (**Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9**). It has already been purchased by Jesus Christ and approved of by God the Father. There is nothing you can do to purchase it and make it yours; all you can do is accept it by faith (**Romans 10:9-13; Acts 16:31**). This means that you must put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as the only Savior from sin; instead of your own goodness. Jesus says that He alone is the way to the Father (**John 14:6**)! To prove your belief in Him, Jesus asks you to confess Him, learn about Him (**Matthew 11:28-30**), and follow Him. This is best done through a local, Bible-believing church that will teach you how to do these things!

Will you receive the gift of salvation today from Jesus? God gave His Son to die for our sins, because He knew there was no other way that we could be saved. He freely gives eternal life, forgiveness, and salvation to all that believe upon Jesus for it (**John 3:16**). This is why we celebrate Christmas.

James Bussard is the pastor of Heritage Park Baptist Church that meets at 8 N. 2nd St. in Woodsboro, MD @ 11:30am on Sundays and throughout the week. For questions or comments about this article, or for

*spiritual guidance and help, please call (301) 304-2127 or write him at HeritageParkPastor@Gmail.com.
For more information about the church, please go to www.FrederickforChrist.com or call (301) 304-2127.*