



God's Love!

Christmas can be the most wonderful time of the year!

There are many questions surrounding Christmas:

- When does it start and when does it end?
- Why all the lights?
- Why Christmas trees?
- Why candy canes and gifts?
- What does Christmas really mean?

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS IS LOVE!

¹⁶ "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. **John 3:16-17 NLT**

- Why did God do this? Because He loves us!

⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. **Romans 5:6-8 NLT**

- God is love!

⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. **1 John 4:7-8 NLT**

- Why was Christmas necessary? We needed a Savior!

⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. **1 John 4:9-10 NLT**

CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THIS INCREDIBLE ACT OF LOVE.

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." **Luke 2:8-14 NLT**

JESUS IS THE SAVIOR WHO DELIVERS US FROM SIN AND DEATH!

^{20b} ... "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: ²³ "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" **Matthew 1:20b-23 NLT**

The real Christmas story is the story of God becoming a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Next Steps for me today...

- Receive God's greatest gift of love.
- Allow Christmas to take on new meaning as we focus on Jesus Christ and God's Love.
- Celebrate God's gift by giving toward The Big Give!