

## The Christmas Story

What does Christmas mean to you? To some Christmas is a time for decorating and the giving of gifts. To others it's a time of baking cookies and wrapping presents. Still for others it may be a trip to see family. These are all good things in and of themselves. But unfortunately, Christmas has also become too commercialized. It has become a billion-dollar industry. And many have forgotten the reason we truly are to celebrate Christmas.

Like most theologians, I don't believe Christ was born on December 25<sup>th</sup>. But I'm glad many will take a day to celebrate the birth of a baby boy that changed the world forever. As children of God, we should celebrate the birth of Jesus every day. But Christmas provides us with an opportunity to share our story with others who for many different reasons are in the Christmas spirit. You may recall, the Apostle Paul said he became all things to all men, so that some may be saved. Does that mean that Paul was willing to bend the truth of God's word. Absolutely not! What it does mean, is Paul knew how to seize the moment to share the good news of the gospel, in hopes that someone would listen and be saved. Let us not be foolish and miss the same opportunities.

In Isaiah 9:6 we read, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Mary gave birth to a child, a child that was born of a virgin. Jesus was fully human. But the text doesn't stop there. For it says, "For unto us a son was given." The Son of God. Jesus was also fully God.

**Why is this important. Because without Jesus (whose Hebrew name is Yeshua), meaning salvation, there would have been no blood sacrifice to save us. And as the son of God, Immanuel which means "God with us", he had the power to overcome the grave. Jesus was the full embodiment of Man and God. The perfect sacrifice. And as such, the grave now has no control over our lives. O grave where is thy victory, oh death where is thy sting. We are victorious because of Jesus.**

From my family to yours, we are wishing you all a very merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Let us all take time to thank God for sending his only begotten son in the flesh to save us.

This is Jesse Walker with the Glenwood Church of Christ