

**"THE BIBLICAL PREPARATION FOR CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS"**

**MATTHEW 1:18-25; LIKE 2:1-20**

**INTRO:** We have now entered the CHRISTMAS SEASON for 2018. All around the world Christians will be celebrating Christmas in various ways according to their traditions. Even within our own Country and right here within our own church, different people have different ways to celebrate Christmas. Some people put a lot into celebrating Christmas. Some people put very little into celebrating Christmas. Some people do not celebrate Christmas at all. But one thing for certain is that OUR CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE CHRIST-CENTERED AND NOT SELF-CENTERED. **HOW CAN WE HAVE A CHRIST-CENTERED CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS?** It all has to do with WHERE WE PUT OUR FOCUS.

**FOCUS ON CERTAIN COMPONENTS ON THE REALITY OF CHRISTMAS**

**OBSERVATION:** Many of us understand the reality of Christmas. But there are millions of people, primarily younger people, who REALLY HAVE NO CLUE WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT. This message will present new things to those who know very little, if anything, about Jesus Christ.

**NOTE:** For Christians, Christmas is not solely the time for commercialism, parties, church programs and giving and receiving of gifts. There is a MUCH GREATER REASON TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND WHO WANT TO HONOR GOD. Consider the following biblical principles:

***I. FOCUS ON THE DIVINE PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S INCARNATION***

A. Christmas is the time when we remember the fact that God made Christ in the likeness of mankind for the purpose of going to the CROSS.

B. Scripture: Philippians 2:5-8

**IN CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS, LETS REMEMBER GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST TOOK HIM TO THE CROSS.**

***II. FOCUS ON THE DIVINE PERFORMANCE THROUGH CHRIST'S INCARNATION***

A. Christmas is the time when we remember that God the Father "Sent Forth" Jesus Christ His Son into the world with a specific mission.

B. Scripture: Galatians 4:4-5

**IN CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS, LETS REMEMBER GOD'S PERFORMANCE THROUGH THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST GAVE US A GENUINE SAVIOR.**

***III. FOCUS ON THE DIVINE PROPHECIES FULFILLED THROUGH CHRIST'S INCARNATION***

A. Christmas is the time when we remember the fulfillment of prophecy concerning the incarnation of Jesus Christ. (Over 360 according to Dr. Jimmy DeYoung)

B. Scripture: Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2

**IN CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS, LETS REMEMBER THE PROPHECIES FULFILLED ABOUT THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST WERE FULFILLED EXACTLY AND THUS, SIGNIFY HIS AUTHENTICITY.**

***IV. FOCUS ON THE DIVINE PROMISED HOPE THROUGH CHRIST'S INCARNATION***

A. Christmas is the time when we remember that Jesus Christ came into the world to save us from our sin and give us the assurance of eternal life

B. Scriptures: Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:10-11

**IN CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS, LET'S REMEMBER THAT THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS IS AVAILABLE FOR EVERYONE THROUGH THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST.**

***V. FOCUS ON THE DIVINE PRESENTED REVELATION THROUGH CHRIST'S INCARNATION***

A. Christmas is the time when we remember God revealed Himself through Christ's presence on earth.

B. Scriptures: John 1:1-5; 14-18

**IN CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS, LETS REMEMBER THAT ALL THAT GOD IS, IS SEEN IN THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST.**

***VI. FOCUS ON THE DIVINE PERFORMED LOVE THROUGH CHRIST'S INCARNATION***

A. Christmas is the time when we remember that God loved us so much that He gave us His best in the Person of His Son Jesus Christ.

B. Scripture: John 3:16; Romans 5:8

**IN CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS, LET'S REMEMBER THAT NO GREATER LOVE IS SEEN THAN WHAT WAS DECLARED IN THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST.**

***VII. FOCUS ON THE DIVINE PRONOUNCED WITNESS THROUGH CHRIST'S INCARNATION***

A. Christmas is the time when we remember to **give a clear witness** for Who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for us.

B. Scripture: Luke 2:15-20

**IN CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS, LETS REMEMBER TO SHARE THE GOSPEL THAT WAS MADE A REALITY THROUGH THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST.**

**LESSON AND APPLICATION**

Even the most mature Christian can get lost in the hustle, bustle and commercialism of the Christmas Season. But with the right focus, the Christmas Season can be a time of true honor and worship of God for what He has done for us through Jesus Christ that results on many personal spiritual benefits. **STAY FOCUSED THIS YEAR!**