

Carried by Christmas truth

As we approach Christmas, I'm reminded of the many wonderful truths we have explored together over the past year. For most of us it's been a year splattered with highs and lows, with pains and joys, with victories and defeats. In spite of the unpredictable nature of life, Jesus Christ has remained the one true constant, faithful in all circumstances.



Over the next few weeks many of us will be bombarded by worldly concepts masquerading as Christmas. However, commercial marketing of goods most don't need is the least of our concerns. It's the incognito philosophies which exclude the Lord Jesus Christ which should really concern us. These worldly ideas spread the lethal fables of a Christless Christmas.

Christmas marks the spectacular event of God stepping into human history in the form of baby Jesus. God's Word proclaims that *"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."* (Hebrews 1:3). An angel told Joseph; *"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" [which means, God with us]* (Matthew 1:23).

While such an event seems impossible, remember God's involvement. As the angel explained to Joseph; *"that which is conceived in her [Mary] is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:20-21). Jesus was no ordinary baby. Following the Holy Spirit enabled conception, God employed all the customary means of birth, childhood, family, and Jewish culture. Throughout, Jesus remained perfectly God wrapped in perfect humanity.

From conception, Jesus' purpose and destiny were clear; He was

heading directly for the cross of Calvary. Again, this defies human wisdom. But remember, the Father's intention was not to satisfy the world's desires. In fact, Jesus said of Himself; *"I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me"* (John 6:38).

I encourage you to think of Christmas the way God does. Christmas is about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It's about God's purpose of salvation fulfilled through Jesus. It's about sinner's transformation to become worshippers. It's about Jesus doing for humanity what humanity could not do for themselves. So, as we enjoy family togetherness, great food, and gift giving; *"Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David..."* (2 Timothy 2:8).

I shall be laying down my pen for the Christmas holiday session and hope to return in February 2020. I pray you all have a wonderful Christ centred and family enriching Christmas.