

## Christmas

### Good News in Troubling Times (Part 3) The Good News Of Joy

(Matthew 1:21)

**Introduction:** “Joy!” No other word so completely captures the Christmas spirit. Today we will be lighting the candle of Joy, because in Jesus we find the source of Joy! Jesus is our cause for Joy, our Christmas Joy, and our current joy –

#### I. Jesus is our cause for joy:

##### A. Jesus is our cause for joy in salvation –

1. The name “Jesus” is from the root name “Joshua”- which means “Jehovah is salvation.” The angel added joy on top of Joseph’s joy when he announced, *“This child shall save His people from their sins!”*
2. From now on, every time people spoke His name they would be reminded *“Jehovah is salvation!”*

##### B. Jesus is our cause for joy in security -

1. Jesus came to save men from their sins and the penalty of their sins – (Ps. 130:8; Rom. 6:23)
  - a. Jesus saves men from their sins completely (Rom 10: 13)
  - b. Though we will still slip-up and sin – we have this assurance; (Rom 8:1)
  - c. This does not mean that we should just throw caution to the wind once we are saved and sin all we want – (Rom. 6:1,2)
2. What it does mean is we are secure in our salvation (Jn. 10:28-29) – because we have a promise in 1Jn.1:9.

*What Joy Jesus causes to rise up in those who know Jesus as their Savior and are secure in His salvation!*

#### II. Jesus is our Christmas joy:

For some folks at Christmas, joy is missing. To them Christmas day is a hollow day...

##### A. Jesus makes Christmas more than a holiday –

1. Christmas is more than just another holiday –
2. Christmas celebrates the birth of our Lord! (Mt. 20:28)

##### B. Jesus makes Christmas a hollowed day – The importance of Christmas is not contained in:

1. The date (Dec.25) the date came from a pagan observance...

2. The name “Christmas”
3. The trees, gifts, cards, or any of the many other things we have drawn into this special day.
4. The most important thing about Christmas is the joy of celebrating Jesus!

*We don’t just celebrate the coming of Jesus at Christmas, we celebrate the Joy that Jesus came at Christmas and we look forward to His coming again!*

#### III. Jesus is our current joy:

It is a wonderful idea to set aside a special day to celebrate the joy Jesus brings....On that first Christmas,

##### A. Jesus was the fulfillment of the past –

1. Matthew tells us in an editorial style comment – *“all this happened to fulfill prophecy...”* (Isa. 7:14; 9:6f. etc.)
2. Paul tells us, (Gal 4:4)
  - a. Jesus was the fulfillment of God’s past promises! John calls Jesus the (Jn. 1:1-3)
  - b. The writer of Hebrews says, (Heb 1:1-2)

##### B. Jesus fills the present – John’s gospel tells us (Jn. 1:1-3,14)

1. Suddenly God is our Emanuel – God with us!
2. Since Jesus came – God is with us in a way he has never been before! What joy it ought to give us to know;
  - a. He will (Heb 13:5-6)
  - b. He is our (Heb 2:17-18)
  - c. That (Heb 4:15-16)

*“There is more joy in Jesus in 24 hours than there is in the world in 365 days. I have tried them both.”— Dr. R. A. Torrey*

*Jesus our Emanuel – God with us – is our current joy because He is with us like He has never been before, and He will never leave us or forsake us!*

**Conclusion:** “Joy!” No other word so completely captures the Christmas spirit. And it is in Jesus we find the source of Joy! For He is our cause for Joy, our Christmas Joy, and our current joy!

Let’s make this Christmas a celebration of the Joy only Jesus can bring!