

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of December 24, 2023 A.D.

Christmas is a Time for Celebration, Salvation & Reconciliation

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." A full life is a life of celebration, salvation, and reconciliation. Let's talk about that in today's lesson.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Luke 2:8-20

Celebration

1. What examples of celebration do you see in this passage?
2. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "When you take a realistic look at life and death, you discover that Christians are the only people who have any reason to celebrate."
3. Read John 3:16. Is the fact that God loves you a reason for you to celebrate? In your opinion, how should a person celebrate God's love for them?
4. Read Romans 8:31,32. In what ways does God demonstrate that He "is for" each and every Christian? Is the fact that God is for us a reason to celebrate? How should that celebration be expressed?

Salvation

5. Read Romans 3:21-24 and 6:23. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The primary reason why Jesus came to earth is to make it possible for human beings to have eternal life."
6. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-9 and Ephesians 2:10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "God has a plan and a purpose for the life of every Christian."

7. If the statement at item 7 above is true, what should a Christian do with that truth? And why?

8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss the meaning and the validity of this acrostic:
God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

Reconciliation

9. Read Luke 2:13,14. Has the birth of Jesus initiated "on earth peace to men"?

10. Read Romans 5:1-2. What does it mean to "have peace with God"? Is such peace real? Or, is it illusory?

11. Read Philippians 4:6-7. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The peace of God is emotional peace."

12. Read Matthew 5:9 and Matthew 6:12-15. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Forgiveness is essential to having peace with other people."

13. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Jesus came to earth to show us how to love other people."

Consider: Christmas is meaningless if you do not have a personal relationship with Jesus. Give your life to Jesus so that you can enjoy a life of celebration, salvation, and reconciliation. You think about that. Amen.