

The True Spirit of Christmas.

We so often hear this phrase, “get into the spirit of Christmas” and usually what people mean is far from the truth. What they usually mean is get everything ready, buy the gifts and the eats and the alcohol especially. Often the spirit of Christmas is joined up with alcohol and its after effects.

Well I want to expose the True Spirit of Christmas as we approach Christmas in a weeks time so that we get what it is all about.

John 1: 1-12 **The Word** - at the beginning of time? Who was this? Word was with God and the Word was God. I Hebrew scripture the Word was an agent of creation. (*Ps 33:6 by the word of the Lord the heavens were made*), The Word was God's message through the prophets (Hosea 1:2 Then the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea), the word was Gods law, his standard for holiness (*Ps 119:11 Your word have I hid in my heart that I may not sin against you*).

In the NT we find the Word referred to by John as the divine person that held all things together. John's description shows that he is speaking of Jesus as we read in *V14 where the word became flesh and dwelt among us* (The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. And the Word was full of grace and truth. The MSG bible says that the word *became flesh and moved into the neighbourhood*)

Col 1: 15-18 We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment.

Jesus declared of himself in John 6:63 *The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life, Why? Because Jesus is the Word, the spirit of prophesy and the eternal life.*

Although Jesus took upon himself humanity he never ceased to be the eternal God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. You and I exist because God created us made us... and the special gifts we have are because He has given them to us. With God you are a valuable and unique... and outside of God - nothing! Because you are abandoning His purpose for creating you.

The Life and the light of men (v4) Why is Jesus the life and light of mankind ? Because death brings eternal darkness and only Christ's eternal life planted in us will keep us alive in His new Kingdom for eternity. *Colossians 1:13-14 He has saved us from the kingdom of darkness. He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. 14 Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all our sins have been forgiven.*

Christ is eternal (Ps 90:2; John 8:58, Col 1:17, Rev 1:8). He is God (John10:30). He came to earth to offer mankind the hope and light of his eternal life. V5 tells us that the darkness was shattered, it was extinguished, put out when Jesus stepped in.

The darkness of evil never has, and never will, overcome or extinguish God's light. It is His light that searches our hearts and enables us to recognise we are sinners needing the Saviour. When we follow the Light we don't have to walk blindly and walk into sin.

Jesus said in John 9:5 I am the Light of the world. When Jesus guides your life you will never need to stumble in darkness again. We are reflectors of this Light in this world. Jesus said we are salt of the earth (Matt 5:13) and light of the world (Matt 5:14)

HE Gives you the right to become children of God - (V 11-13) *11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

John is talking of a spiritual birth in Jesus Christ. The Jews did not recognise Jesus the Messiah as He walked among them and taught them in the synagogues. They missed the very Saviour of the world who was right before their very eyes.

All who welcome Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives are re born spiritually receiving new life from God. Through faith in Jesus this new birth changes us from the inside out- re arranging our attitudes, desires and motives. As much as being physically born makes you alive and places you in your parents family so being spiritually born makes you spiritually alive and puts you in God's family.

Let's not miss the True Spirit of Christmas like the Jews did being blinded by darkness, by all the hype and activity but let's allow the True Light of the world Jesus Christ to come into our lives and become in us "Immanuel" "God with us" this season of Christmas.

Q? Have you asked Jesus to come into your life and make you a new person? You can have this fresh start in life no matter what the past has been or the present is, by simply believing and receiving Jesus - The True Spirit of Christmas.

Jesus Loves you and desires to have a relationship with you. He desires to give you a life full of joy and purpose.

Jesus can change the past you cannot change by walking into those places of sin and failure and wipe your slate clean, your past cleaned and removed. Jesus is the same today as he was yesterday and forever His love for you will never give up or run dry or fail you. Jesus knows the worst about you and yet he believes the best why? Because He sees you not as you are but as His child when he gets through with you. He is an amazing friend! Jesus has a great future for you. You can trust Him. His plans are for good and not for evil to give you a future and a hope (joyful expectation/ anticipation about the future) . Jesus listens to your every prayer. Do you want to know this Jesus? Are you willing to do what Jesus says just because He's said it?

Prayer: *Dear Lord Jesus, I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life. I ask Your forgiveness. Thank you for dying on the cross for me to set me free from my sins. Come into my life Jesus. I believe you are Jesus my Lord and Saviour. Lord fill me with your Holy Spirit and be with me always . Amen*