

So this is the challenge of Christmas... God reaching out to us in love and sacrifice.

But, as in any close relationship, so Christ Jesus asks something in return... the love and loyalty of all who would be His true followers...

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Luke 9:23

A positive response will change your life now...

...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10

...and forever. Because death isn't so much a 'dead end' as a fork in the road...

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:18

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4 Mossedge Ind. Est., Linwood PA3 3HR Tel: 01505 228208
Email: info@telitquick.org

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CHRISTMAS

...the greatest gift

CHRISTMAS

In our multi-cultural society there's a popular view these days that all religions lead to God... and that it doesn't really matter what we believe, so long as we're sincere.

Yet Christianity is unlike every other in that we're not expected to earn acceptance with God... and that's great, because we'd never be good enough anyway.

No, God had a different plan altogether... beginning with Christmas...

May you know God's special love this Christmas...

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
from

...as you seek Him with an open heart and mind...

LOVE CAME DOWN... ...AT CHRISTMAS

Easy nowadays, isn't it, to forget what Christmas is really all about... Almighty God becoming one of us... out of pure love...

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...

John 3:16

...and to be more than a leader or teacher, or mere superstar...

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...

1 Timothy 1:15

It's just as well He's not looking for perfect people - that would sure rule me out!

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

And the long-term future couldn't be worse...

...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...

Hebrews 9:27

But then, He didn't come to criticise or condemn... He was born to die... in our place. The only man in history ever to have lived a perfect life... was 'good enough' to take the penalty for all my wrong-doing...

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 Peter 3:18



Of course, this Isn't forced upon us. The greatest gift of all is there for us all to receive or reject... the greatest Christmas gift for all nations of the world.

Christmas is a costly time with cards, presents and celebrations. But the real challenge of Christmas is different altogether... that WE might be different altogether! God calls us to be done with our self-centred living and be ready for a totally different outlook... because of that wooden Cross of Calvary...

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness...

1 Peter 2:24

Of course, this would be impossible in our own strength. But when we receive the risen Lord Jesus as a free gift, asking Him into our lives by His Spirit, we're forgiven.

We can start life over again with the slate wiped clean, and with the power to live a new lifestyle...

...if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation. The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

