

The Joy of *Everlasting Life*



We live in a very uncertain world, yet death remains the one great taboo subject in the canteen, the staff room or the pub. But finding peace with God through Christ Jesus means that we can have the joy of knowing for sure that we've been granted eternal life. He says...

I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.

John 11:25,26

He wants us to know His everlasting security...

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

And yet so many of us choose to ignore or reject His love... to our fearful and everlasting cost...

...whoever does not believe stands condemned already...

John 3:18

So why not reach out to Him this Christmas and discover with great joy that He is already reaching out to you.

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Wishing
you a
JOYful
CHRISTMAS

Wishing you a **Joyful Christmas**

It's Christmas morning and the children are so excited. They can't wait to open their presents. And yet in no time it seems they're squabbling again.

Later in the day the relatives arrive. What pleasure there is in sharing our Christmas dinner together. But before we know it, they're gone and within a few short days it's back to the same old day-to-day routine.



Yes, happiness depends largely upon 'happenings'. And yet the true meaning of Christmas offers so much more... so long as we're willing to look in the right direction...

❄️
Christmas Greetings
from



The Joy of *Real Hope*

Let's face it, these are difficult days... unemployment... depression.... relationship problems. Yes, our world is very different from the one into which God the Father sent His Son that first Christmas... and yet is it? Despite progress in many ways basic human nature hasn't changed. We're still the same self-centered people, all too often driven by the darker side of our nature...

...sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed...

Colossians 3:5

In our more thoughtful moments we may hope to earn God's acceptance by living a decent life. But in His sight even our very best falls so far short...

...all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...

Isaiah 64:6

We need to face the truth about ourselves...

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

1 John 1:8

...and heed God's warning to us...

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

Hebrews 9:27

But He set in place a rescue plan that first Christmas...



The Joy of *Lasting Peace*

It's lovely when something very special is done for us at Christmas... and even more so when it springs from real love. Of course, this was the motivation which lay behind that first Christmas...

...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Though we've gone our own way and rejected His right, as our Maker, to run our lives, He still loves us and wants us to know His best.

The Lord Jesus came that we might find peace with God the Father... a true and lasting peace that isn't dependent only upon good things happening to us. In adulthood He went on to say...

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

John 14:27

But of course this can be ours only through entering into a personal relationship with Almighty God through Him...

...I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6



The Joy of *Complete Forgiveness*

Many so-called 'religious' people today believe that because of Christmas and Easter every one of us will automatically go to heaven when we die. But this is simply not true.

The first step in finding peace with God is in seeking His forgiveness.

Having lived a perfect life, the Lord Jesus was crucified on the Cross of Calvary, 'good enough' to take the punishment we deserve.

When He came to this world He didn't bring some self-improvement plan. But He does call us, with His help, to turn away from all we know to be wrong.

Then, when we invite the risen Lord Jesus into our lives to become our Saviour and Lord, He makes us part of His family...

...to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

John 1:12



The Joy of *True Friendship*

Christmas is often seen as the time to end quarrels and repair broken relationships... a time for love and reconciliation. And of course, being 'put right' with God the Father through His Son the Lord Jesus, is the greatest reconciliation of them all. We're even given a brand new start...

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

2 Corinthians 5:17

...with the motivation and power to live a new lifestyle... pleasing to Him.

Although this is a free gift from God there is a cost to be faced by 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

