

Christmas going forward

The wise men followed the star until they found Jesus. In receiving the gift of God's Son this Christmas we're forgiven and adopted into His family.

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

John 1:12

God calls us to be done with our self-centred living and be ready for a totally different outlook.

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

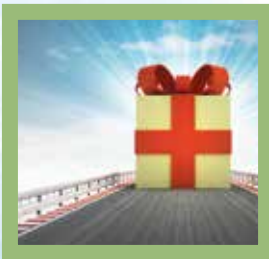
1 Peter 2:24

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 power to live a new lifestyle.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17



Christmas



Do we need it?

Christmas – Do we need it?

As children many of us looked forward to Christmas even if it was only for the time off school.

As our personal circumstances change, so do our expectations. Over the years the way we look at Christmas changes.

We expect Christmas will bring different things: Christmas food, gifts, family, solitude, travel, parties, concerts, sport.

Some we look forward to and some we dread.

Yes, there is a reason why we need Christmas.



What do we want from it?

Surrounded by advertising and happy family scenes, we hope and expect the holiday period will bring self fulfilment from a variety of situations, whether they be large communal events or even quiet solitude.

Often we just want to be loved but where do we find that and how will it last across the years?

God's message to us in the Bible says:

God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:8-10

If God is love, why do we not realise that when we look at the world around us?



What spoils it?

Why can things go wrong at a supposedly happy time of year?

Something said or done can easily spoil the day. It isn't surprising if we take an honest look at our lives. Our self-centred human nature is the real problem.

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

1 John 1:8

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

We can easily upset someone by not fulfilling what they wanted for Christmas but how do we treat the God who made us and how do we respond to His Christmas gift?

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

John 3:16

Is that the kind of gift that would appear on your Christmas list?



What does it bring?

We hope that having more money or being with the right people at the most glittering events will improve our lives.

We wouldn't think to send a baby to be the answer to the world's problems.



...the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world.

1John 4:14

At a time when many are looking to be loved and have peace in life do we overlook the fact that these have already been gifted to us?

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

Romans 5:8

What does this gift offer me then?

Unexpected gift

We can be quick to decide that we don't want or need a gift. God offers more than we could ever imagine.

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

John 10:10

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

John 14:27



Of course, this can be ours only through entering into a personal relationship with Almighty God through Him. Jesus said,

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

John 14:6

What do I do with this gift then?