Is Christmas Really Over? Sun Am 12/27/2021

# Memory Verse: John 1:12 (NKJV)

12But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Target Thought: The REAL Christmas is never over.

This is the Sunday after Christmas. It has less than a week since we were celebrating, opening gifts, and eating a huge Christmas dinner. What is left of the Christmas celebration? A trash bag full of used wrapping paper and empty boxes. The Christmas tree and all the decorations? Christmas is over and our lives have returned to normal. It is back to work for the adults and soon it will be back to school for you guys. Yes, Christmas is over -- at least for almost another year.

Wait! Is it really over? Is that all there is to Christmas? Is it just a time for parties, giving gifts to friends and family, and a brief period of "Peace on earth, good will toward men?" Surely there is more to it than that. Let's read a scripture that explains a little more to us:

# John 1:14 (NKJV)

**14**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Bible says that, "The Word became flesh and came to live among us." The "Word" that the Bible is talking about is Jesus. He came, full of unfailing love, and we have seen His glory. We have seen the glory of God's only begotten Son. We know that our life with Jesus is an everyday relationship with Him, not just a day or an event. We love Jesus with all of our heart, soul and our mind and it is our purpose to love and serve Him all of the time. That is why we celebrate the TRUE Christmas all year.

Have you ever been to someone's birthday party and it was nice and everyone enjoyed it but you didn't spend time with that person day in and day out and have a relationship with them. It is not that way with Jesus for us, He is our everything and even though we just celebrated His birthday, our relationship with Him is all of the time, not just one day.

What did you get for Christmas? No doubt you received some toys and clothes, but the most important gift any of us received was Jesus who came to earth as a gift from God. To those who receive Him and believe in His Name, He gave the right to become the children of God. That is so important for us to know because as His children we have all that He has and He loves and provides for us and after our Christmas celebration is over we still get to be His for eternity and have Him love and care for us and we love Him.

Jesus came to the world, but many did not recognize Him. For those who do not know the Savior, Christmas is over, and they never knew the true purpose and blessing of Christmas and all that Father God has done and provided for them. But for those of us who received the gift of the Father, Christmas goes on all year long.

We get to have and enjoy all the benefits of being in Jesus' Kingdom all of the time. Once we are believers, we are the Kings kids and we have everything in our life that God has! That is truly amazing isn't it, all that the Father has is ours. Tell me some things that the Father has for us that already belong to us?

We want everyone to know Jesus and have a relationship with Him. Remember what Jesus told us about preaching the Gospel all over the world?

# Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)

**14**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

When this verse talks about the end, it is explaining the end of the age of grace or the church age, where we all get to choose Jesus as our Savior, not the end of eternity. Can we see the importance of being a witness to everyone about Jesus? Once everyone has heard the Gospel we get to go to Heaven and then come back to the earth and help Jesus set up His millennial Kingdom.

Let's pray: Father God we thank-you for the gift of Jesus, help us we ask to be the witness for You that You need us to be so that Your Kingdom can come to everyone. In Jesus' name we ask Amen.

1. What kind of relationship with Jesus do we have?

2. What right do we have because we believe Jesus?

3. What did we learn today that is truly amazing?