

ble points us to Jesus' death on a cross where we are told Jesus died for the sins committed by every human being who has ever lived and ever will live. Isaiah, interesting man, tells us God laid on Jesus the sin of us all, all our problems Jesus took them and died to take them into death and leave them powerless, to kill them off. Jesus then rose again from the dead, having left all the badness behind, and therefore when we receive Him He can remove all our badness from us and give us a new start.

We have now mentioned resurrection, come on that is too much surely? But if the virgin birth is true and the baby was born and the shepherds really saw Him, if the skies were filled with angels, if the wise men got it right and this was the Son of God, surely for this man, Christians call Him Jesus Christ, to have died and risen again is the next logical step. Surely it is so sensible. God loves us, so He sent His Son to sort everything out. The only way was to defeat all our problems. The problems are called sin, wrongdoing is maybe more understood these days, and it causes 'spiritual death' to us as people and eventually brings the death of our bodies. So for Jesus to come as a human, without our problems and but to take them on Himself, overcome them in His death and rise again to prove 'it was all sorted', is actually very sensible. It has to be, it is a great idea, for someone to do what we cannot do and never could do, and it is for free. There is nothing to pay, unlike the presents and the alcohol and all that is now part of Christmas; it is all free from a God who loves us. All we have to do is ask, there is a prayer you can pray on this pamphlet.

As we have seen there is so much evidence in the Bible, we have only looked at a fraction, but it all makes perfect sense, and over the past 2000 years, millions of people have testified that Jesus is alive and has really changed their lives. He can change you too, just receive Him, Jesus is the child born, He is the Son given; He is the Saviour of the world; that is the true meaning of Christmas.



Prayer for Salvation

You can pray this prayer from the heart if you know you need the Lord Jesus as your own Saviour. He will faithfully answer your prayer because He loves you.

Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you for helping me when I could not help myself. I confess to you that I have sinned and done things against the will of God. Please forgive me and cleanse me from all my sin. Please come into my heart and change me so that I can truly serve you for the rest of my life. I realise that without you I have no hope in this world but that with you I have eternal life

Lord Jesus thank you. I now belong to you and I rejoice in you as my Saviour and can now truly call you Lord. Amen

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'THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS'



Fed up with Christmas and all that goes on at this time of year? Find it too expensive and you spend money you cannot afford? Do you dread the long break at home with your family or perhaps the opposite, being on your own for so many days with little to do but watch boring TV or play video games?

Many people feel like that in these times and wonder what all the fuss is about and have little understanding of the real meaning of Christmas. The applications for divorces in England are higher just after Christmas than at any other time of the year as relationships come under strain from all the financial pressures or just being together, often having drunk too much alcohol, which people can't really afford. On the other hand there are so many homeless living on the streets, but at least at Christmas time, some of the charities try and provide a good meal for the homeless and make some provision for them. The outcomes are not that joyous for our society when Christmas is meant to be a time of 'good will' towards human beings. The good will of course is God's good will towards us; that is what the Bible really says and not as is often misquoted 'good will among human beings' and there is not very much of that.

So why and where is all this not working and who is this Jesus anyway whose birth 2000 years ago is still remembered? It is easy to understand of course why commercialism has taken over at Christmas. It seems to start earlier and earlier each year with all the adverts trying to convince us to have a good time; eat well, drink well and even 'smell well'; to spend all our money to ensure we have that great time and yet the real motive is to boost the profits



of the companies. There is nothing new in that, they did it in Biblical times and Jesus rebuked them for their corruption. But what is it all about? Even the Bible which was once so widely read is now criticised by so many, so where do we look?

Jesus was probably born in September, not December, so even the world has got that wrong, just to make use of a convenient time, so maybe they have got their objections to what the Bible says wrong too. So let's go to the Bible, it is the most read book worldwide and really says so many wonderful things, if we take time to find them and that is where we find an historic account of what really happened 2000 years ago. The Bible gives us eyewitness accounts from those who were there; Mary the mother of Jesus, Joseph, Mary's husband, Shepherds, Wise men and so on and some of the records of what they say are amazing. There is talk of angels and special stars. There is talk of a virgin having a baby and it being born in a cowshed. Interestingly these things were all foretold, in the Bible, long before they happened. Let us take the prophecy that 'a virgin shall conceive and have a son'; Isaiah spoke that 600-700 years before it happened and yet it is backed up by what we read of what happened to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the discipline of her husband Joseph before Jesus was born. So maybe there is some truth in it after all and it is not quite as mad as people make out.

It is clear that there are problems with human beings and the way they behave and have done so down through the centuries and maybe there was a need for a new start. Just watch a TV news broadcast or read the paper, the problems are all there for us to see. If the problem is a 'spiritual one' in the makeup of human beings and gets passed on from generation to generation then just perhaps a 'virgin birth' is what is required. A



human being without the corrupted nature is what is needed and the 'virgin birth' provides possibly the new start we need; maybe not such a crazy idea after all.

So if this is true, where else can we look? Isaiah helps us again. "Unto us a child is born and unto us a Son is given". Well the child is easy, just a baby, they all saw that, the shepherds saw the baby and the wise men we are told saw and fell on their knees and worshipped. So why, it was just a child? But it gives us a clue; it points us to the Son who was given; that is what is important. The wise men saw 'the Son', that is what they had come to find, the 'one' promised of God and they recognised Jesus and worshiped Him as the Son of God and gave Him their gifts. These were appropriate too, gold for royalty, frankincense for the sweet smell of His life serving God and myrrh speaking of Jesus' death. Wow! that is interesting, the gifts really meant something? Yes, so what more does Isaiah tell us? "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father and The Prince of Peace". Such statements lead us to the divinity of this baby, to the Son who was given and Jesus the Son of God being the very special one whom God had sent, in order to provide an answer to the problems of human lives. It was not to be a political solution, it was not about financial packages; no human solution, but a 'divine solution' where those who receive Jesus, the Son who was given, find forgiveness of sins and a complete change of life. They come 'out of darkness into the light of God'. The truth is that the Bible does not tell us to remember Jesus' birth but really His death. That is even more important. Commercialism likes us to remember the birth, as it is about giving but the Bi-

