

Christmas Devotional 12/25/2024  
The True Reason for Christmas

I would like to preface this devotional with these simple truths:

God created you and me in His own image and GAVE TO YOU AND ME TOTAL FREEDOM TO CHOOSE for ourselves how we would live and who we would obey and follow while alive on earth. With that total freedom of choice, GOD NEVER forces us to choose Him or His ways. But, God clearly let us know that we are responsible to HIM and we are accountable to HIM for the choices we make; and that, there are present and eternal consequences to every decision we make while having our own freedom to choose our own way. We ALL are given freedom to choose, and MUST choose whom we will serve in this life. We ALL obey and follow SELF or GOD!!!

Psalms 119 verses 1 thru 4 and Deuteronomy 30:15-20 consist of absolute truths that apply to every human being born into this world, and that includes you and me whether we like it or not:

Psalms 119:1 Blessed (happy) *are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.* 2 Blessed (happy) *are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.* 3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. 4 Thou hast commanded *us* to keep thy precepts diligently.

Deuteronomy 30:15 "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. 17 But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods (self is a god) and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong *your* days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth

to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 BY loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; ... ."

Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God said this:

Proverbs 8:33 "Heed instruction (Listen and Obey ALL of God's Word) and be wise, And do not neglect *it*. 34 Blessed (Happy) is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at my doorposts. 35 For he who FINDS ME FINDS LIFE And obtains favor from the LORD. 36 But he who sins against me injures himself; All those who hate me love DEATH."

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he WILL keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."

Proverbs 13:15 Good understanding produces favor, But the way of the treacherous IS HARD (The treacherous are those who reject and refuse to obey God's Holy Word, the Bible. Don't blame God for life being so difficult. Blame yourself because of the choices you make with your own freedom to choose whom you obey and follow.)

Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: 7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious (that is, they lean on their own understanding and choose to fulfill their own desires) and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, (to those) wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil (Simply stated: If you don't keep ALL the

commandments of God, you are the man who does evil), of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good (everyone who does not lean on his own understanding but trusts God by listening and obeying His Holy Word), to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.

The big question to answer is: how can I truly love Christ, keep His Words and commandments, persevere in doing good instead of living for myself by continually choosing to satisfy my own fleshly desires; and then, reaping the consequences of my own choices to obey self rather than obey Christ?

Romans 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit (Holy Spirit) is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**REASON FOR CHRISTMAS: CHRIST CAME TO SAVE SINNERS AND NOT RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE!!!**

I John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

**YOUR ONLY HOPE IS TO CHOOSE CHRIST OVER SELF!!! FLEE TO CHRIST AND ASK HIM TO GIVE YOU HIS FREE OFFER OF MERCY AND GRACE AND TO FORGIVE YOU FOR CHOOSING TO OBEY, LIVE AND LOVE SELF OVER CHOOSING TO OBEY, LIVE AND LOVE HIM! THEN, ASK HIM TO SAVE YOU, CHANGE YOUR HEART AND MAKE YOU HIS CHILD BY GIVING TO YOU HIS HOLY SPIRIT!!! HIS HOLY SPIRIT WILL WORK IN YOU, OVER TIME: TO MAKE YOU WILLING, TO ENABLE AND EMPOWER YOU TO LIVE FOR HIM AND TO OBEY AND FOLLOW HIM INSTEAD OF OBEYING AND FOLLOWING SELF!!! WHAT YOU CHOOSE IN REGARDS TO CHRIST SAVING YOU WILL DETERMINE YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY!!!**