

“Now What?” Topical

What lasting effect does Christmas make in your life? How does Christ’s presence change my world?

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” Luke 2:10b-15 (New International Version)

Christmas can change our world by:

➤ ALLOWING ME TO EXPERIENCE GENUINE LOVE.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:7-8 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1, 14 (NIV)

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. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17 (NIV)

Christmas is a time to receive and reflect on God’s amazing love for us!

➤ PROVIDING ME WITH LASTING PEACE.

Receiving Jesus allows us to experience His peace in 3 ways:

1. Peace with God.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1 (NIV)

2. Peace with others.

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:18 (NIV)

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Romans 14:19 (NIV)

3. Peace with myself.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

➤ GIVING MY LIFE PURPOSE.

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – . . . Ephesians 1:4-5 (NIV)

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, . . . Ephesians 1:11 (NIV)

Our purpose is to love God and serve others.

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:12-14 (NIV)