

## **WHAT TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS?**

*"When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*

*The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."*

*Luke 2:17-18,20*

### **REFLECTION**

The first Christmas was a quiet event. Though Herod knew about the birth of the promised Messiah, he tried to silence it figuratively and brutally (Matt. 2:7,16). However, when the shepherds heard the angels' proclamation of the promised Messiah they sought out the baby Jesus. When they found Him, they were overjoyed. They went about telling others about the promised Messiah and praised God.

This Christmas may be a quiet event for some due to the effects and regulations brought about by the COVID pandemic. It may appear that this pandemic has silenced the Christmas message of Christ's incarnation. Or has it really? Still for others it may be party as usual. How would you respond then to the Christmas message that tells us of Jesus who came into this world 2000 years ago as Christ incarnate to save mankind? The shepherds were not hindered in any way to rejoice and spread the word of the promised Messiah. May we also rejoice in our hearts knowing that Jesus Christ would return one day as the sovereign King over all the world and nothing or no one would be able to stop or silence His return.

### **PRAYER**

*Dear heavenly Father, thank You for Your immeasurable love shown towards us when You sent Your one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, into this world to save us from our sins. Christmas reminds us of Your great love and gift to us. As we celebrate Christmas this year, once again fill our hearts with real joy that comes from receiving Your message of glad tidings and experiencing Your gift of love to us in Christ Jesus. Let all other messages and gifts fade away and let Christ be enthroned in our hearts and lives. Amen.*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Pray for a deep awakening in the hearts and minds of people to the true meaning of Christmas. May they hear and understand the message of Christmas – that Jesus came into our world as the Saviour of all mankind. Pray for faith to be birthed in the hearts of many as they place their trust in Jesus. Pray for Christians to seize opportunities and be courageous to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to their relatives and friends at this Christmas season.
- Pray for all believers as they celebrate Christmas that they may experience a real and deep joy once again as they worship God and His great love. Let the love of God fill their hearts such that they would be like the shepherds would respond with praise and rejoicing and sharing the goodness of Christmas with others.
- The message of Christmas brings with it the theme of Emmanuel, God with us. Pray for individuals and families who need to experience the presence of God with them especially at this time of pandemic. Some may need to experience the peace that only God's presence can offer – pray for them. Some may need to receive the hope that God's presence can assure – pray for them. Some may need to smile again with real joy that only God's presence can fill – pray for them. Some just need to know that they are not alone, God is with them – pray for them.
- The message of Christmas also carries the theme of gift. Pray for a deep understanding and appreciation of God's gift of salvation in Jesus Christ in the hearts of His people. Pray for willing and generous hearts to share with those who are lacking in material needs and provisions. May God's people not turn a deaf ear or blind eye to those around them who are neglected or are in need.

*We were the reason that He gave His life*

*We were the reason that*

*He suffered and died*

*To a world that was lost,*

*He gave all He could give*

*To show us the reason to live*

*- David Meece*

***If you need any prayer or pastoral care support,  
kindly contact the pastoral care team via:***

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