

December 27, 2015

MAKING CHRISTMAS REAL
Keeping CHRISTmas Real Every Day
Luke 4:21-40

Christmas is far more than an event to be visited or a story to be told once a year. It is the celebration of God revealing Himself to all mankind in the coming of the Savior. For many people, this glorious event is simply a story with little meaning or a holiday that comes once a year. But the good news of Jesus is more than a one day celebration – it is the message for all people. The world needs to truly discover and experience the reality of Jesus even after the celebration of Christmas. Let's keep CHRISTmas real so they can truly experience God's gift of Jesus!

1. **We must remember people are still looking for hope.**

"He was waiting for the consolation of Israel..." **Luke 2:25 (NIV)**

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" John 8:12 (NIV)

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful." **Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)**

2. **We must cherish Jesus above everything.**

"He took the child in his arms and praised God." **Luke 2:28**

"Whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You." **Psalms 73:25 (NIV)**

"Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you truly love Me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love You.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.'" John 21:15 (NIV)

"Everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ."

Philippians 3:8 (NLT)

3. **We must live in the reality and joy of our Savior!**

"For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel." **Luke 2:30-32 (NIV)**

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." **John 3:17 (NIV)**

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." **2 Corinthians 5:18**

"God was pleased to have all of Himself live in Christ. God was also pleased to bring everything on earth and in heaven back to Himself through Christ. He did this by making peace through Christ's blood sacrificed on the cross." **Colossians 1:19-20 (GW)**

4. **We must make Jesus the message of our lives!**

"She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about Jesus to everyone who had been waiting for the promised King to come and deliver Jerusalem." **Luke 2:38 (NLT)**

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." **Romans 1:16 (NIV)**

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)