

CHRISTMAS HOPE

Matthew 2:13-23

A Question This Christmas Season

Is real and lasting hope possible in today's world?

Christmas Hope

1. Christmas Can Be Full of HASSLES! *Matthew 2:13-15*

Consider the Hassles Joseph & Mary Endured

- The hassle of an unexpected PREGNANCY by the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 1:18-20*
- The hassle of traveling to BETHLEHEM to pay taxes. *Luke 2:1-5*
- The hassle of finding NO ROOM in the inn. *Luke 2:6-7*
- The hassle of fleeing to EGYPT for safety. *Matthew 2:13-15*

2. Christmas Can Be Full of HURT! *Matthew 2:16-18*

Two Emotional Extremes at Christmas

Mary REJOICING and Rachel WEEPING symbolize the two emotional extremes people experience during the Christmas season.

3. Christmas Can Bring You HOPE! *Matthew 2:19-23*

The True Meaning of Christmas

Christmas is about God coming to an imperfect world and offering us hope through His perfect Son JESUS.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed." Luke 4:18

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1John 4:9-10

How Do We Receive God's Gift of Hope?

You must TRUST in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Matthew 1:23

Trusting in Jesus as Your Savior & Lord

Admit you are a sinner who needs the Savior Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...

Believe that Jesus died for your sins and paid the penalty for your sins with His death on the cross.

Romans 6:23 ...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Confess your sins and ask for God's forgiveness, and by faith accept God's free gift of salvation.

Romans 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:13 For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Here's a simple prayer to pray if you desire to receive God's gift of hope through Jesus Christ...

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness for my sins. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died for my sins and rose again. I want to turn from my sins and receive Your gift of hope and eternal life. I want to trust Jesus as my Savior and follow Him as my Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.