

# Celebrating Christmas

*Is it Really Scriptural?*



## The True Story

**T**HE joy of Christmas hides a religious paradox. Children are encouraged to believe in the generosity of a Santa Claus, and the glory of a Christmas tree. They are told that the basis of Christianity is found in those elements. But it is a mere picture of fabrication, encouraging them to trust in a lie. Instead of learning about true Bible facts, they are deluded by tinsel and bon-bons. Worse, the custom of Christmas denies the truth concerning the birth of the Lord Jesus, concealing the true destiny of the Son of God. The helpless babe in a manger, is the saviour of mankind, and who is destined to return to earth as the divine Monarch of the Millennium — to establish the worldwide kingdom of God, and to bring true and righteous blessings to humanity. This booklet sets out the facts concerning this vital subject; it is commended to the reader to read with Bible at hand, to discover the truth of God's work amongst mankind.

## **HERALD OF THE COMING AGE**

*A Christadelphian Publication*

**DECLARING THE TRUTH OF THE SCRIPTURES REVEALED FOR THE SALVATION OF THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO EXAMINE THE CLAIMS OF GOD'S WORD;  
AND PRESENTING THE GLORIOUS MESSAGE OF THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST  
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM ON EARTH.**

**Edited by G.E.Mansfield,  
Logos Publications, Box 220, Findon, Sth Australia 5023**

*Issued Bi-monthly: \$5 annually.  
Special rates apply to quantities*

USA Mailing address: 350 West Colorado Blvd, Suite 220, Pasadena, CA 91105  
Second Class Permit Paid at Pasadena, California.

**Postmaster: Please address changes to Box 1066, Pasadena, CA 91105**  
Canada Post International Publications Mail (Canadian Distribution) Sales  
Product Agreement Number 6024518

**VOLUME 43**

**CODE: H56**

**NUMBER 5**

# Celebrating Christmas?

## *Is it Really Scriptural?* — The True Story

**T**O the entire christian world December 25th is an outstanding and unmistakable day. Men and women of all ages put aside their differences and gather together for one express purpose: to celebrate this day in various ways, religious, social, and with absolute abandon. Families come together; children become excited with anticipation of presents. No other day in the year can boast the coming together of both the religious and the atheist in a holiday atmosphere! These two normally antagonistic groups, temporarily put aside their differences and on December 25th join for a common purpose: to acknowledge the birth of a unique child, and to enjoy their celebrations. They call it "Christmas"!

Out of all the festivals held throughout the year, Christmas causes nearly the entire world to come to a stand still. It is one of the few festivals capable of bringing people and families together from afar. It is one of the few festivals where opinions and beliefs matter little, and where both young and old can enjoy themselves.



Christmas is seen to be a time of joy and celebration, a time to be spent with family and friends.

### **The Unique Character of Christmas**

There are two things which separate Christmas apart from any other festival.

The first: everyone knows why Christmas is held. Ask anyone — from the very young to those elderly — and you will receive a similar answer... “Christmas is held because it is the day that Jesus was born.” And therefore they celebrate that important event in many and varied ways.

The second reason, particular to more sincere worshippers, provides a time to pause and reflect upon the birth of Jesus Christ and the many acts of charity that are presented in his name.

To many, Christmas means a time for holidays, the end of a hectic working schedule, a period to relax and enjoy some leisure time. To children, the morning of December 25th involves a mad dash to the Christmas tree, the exciting opening of presents, and the playing with the latest and greatest toy.

Today, more so than in previous years, Christmas has become a money-making venture. Retail outlets plan new and better ways of draining every last cent from the consumer. Advertisements concentrate on this and that product, and offer enticing interest-free purchase plans, to encourage customers to buy beyond their means. So often the religious reasons for Christmas become veiled in the commercialism that seems to be so prominent in modern society.

To some, this is seen as an eroding of traditional religious principles associated with the keeping of this religious festival.

### **The Joy of Christmas: Merely a Time of Feasting**

Many things associated with the Christmas festivities instantly spring to mind: the famous tree with its decorations, lights, and gifts all around it. “Father Christmas,” and his reindeers, seem to be an integral part of the season; he is presented as the one who provides joy and gifts. Without these..., say many, Christmas would not be the same!

Christmas cakes are decorated with holly; sumptuous meals have family and friends indulging themselves in food and drink,



often to excess. In some parts of the world the “white Christmas” is renowned for its picturesque snow and the building of snowmen.

Then there is carol singing as groups gather to sing of joy and happiness. Today, carols have been given a new lift as musicians, unable to resist the temptation to become involved in the festive season, bring out the old favourites and fit them with a new twist. The reason for this is quite simple... there’s money to be made!

With such a list — and many more features could be mentioned — its easy to see why Christmas is an exciting experience to so many.

### **The Child’s Anticipations**

When young, before he understood the true teaching of the Bible, the present writer really looked forward to each festive season — and the preparation that commenced weeks before. Every day, as December 25th came closer, the excitement increased. How difficult it was to get to sleep the night before... because the special Christmas day was just ahead!

I well remember, with my sister and parents, journeying to my grandparents home the day before, to receive the presents all neatly wrapped up for us, carrying them carefully to the car, travelling back home and placing them under our Christmas tree. Then came the agonising wait for the morning to arrive.

Having been told, as are most young children in Western society, that it is “Santa Claus” who brings the presents, I remember on one occasion waking up during the night, and seeing a light on in the lounge, then, wakening my sister so that we could quietly and carefully make our way towards the lounge room.

The frosted glass doors to the lounge were closed, but there was a small gap through which we could see — and there, for the first time I spotted my mother and father quietly placing all the presents around the tree.

It was then we realized who Santa Clause really was! Discovering this, we silently hurried back to our beds.

### **When the Truth Becomes Important**

Do such pleasant memories, and the distributing of gifts,

make the celebrating of Christmas right? Nowhere does the Bible speak of such a principle; nowhere does it indicate that the faithful believers of apostolic times kept any such festivity. Therefore, we must ask the question: ***Is it right for people today to uphold what was never part of Christian belief in the days of Jesus and his apostles?***

The clear answer is that we should not be celebrating Christmas — nor any other pagan festival for that matter.

Notice that we have classed Christmas with pagan festivals, and the reason is quite simple. Christmas is clearly dated back to pagan times, and is therefore associated with festivals that have no basis in Bible teaching or practice.

By “pagan,” we mean anything that is non-Bible related, anything to do with heathen practices. In fact, the actual festival of Christmas and its rituals, date back to the times of the Babylonians, thousands of years before the birth of Christ!

Those occasions featured a time of feasting — as is Christmas today — but this feast was in celebration to the pagan gods worshipped by the heathen nations. Further, even though Christmas is considered today to be a christian observance commemorating the birth of Jesus, neither the Lord Jesus Christ nor his apostles kept such a celebration, or commanded others to keep it.

#### **A Curious Anomaly**

Now in regards to the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus, for some strange reason he never increases in age! Over 2,000 years have past since that time, yet he continues to be portrayed as a “baby born in a manger.”

If we did the same to our annual birthday celebration, we would be considered quite strange. As people celebrate their birthdays they recall the increasing of another year. Why is it that this natural situation is forgotten in the ritual of Christmas? Because it is not really an anniversary at all! People do not consider the age of the Lord Jesus, not recall his maturity in any way. They only remember a babe, and not the man he became — the Son of God, the King of Israel.

#### **Is the Date Accurate?**

Many believe that the 25th December is the birthday of Jesus,

born in the stable of Bethlehem. They consider that this is a established fact. But it is not so. There is no historical or Bible based evidence which indicates that December was even the month of his birth.

*Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* states under the subject of "Christmas:" *"While it is accepted that Jesus was born in the small town of Bethlehem, there is no certain information on the date of his birth, not even the year. For several centuries the Christian church paid little attention to the celebration of Jesus' birth. The major Christian festival was Easter, the day of his resurrection. Because there was no knowledge about the date of Jesus' birth, a day had to be selected. The western church, based in Rome, chose December 25th. It is known from an ancient Roman almanac that Christ's birth was celebrated on December 25th in Rome as early as AD336."*

This testimony reveals that December 25th was selected by men of the church, not by Bible teaching, and not only that, it was done so nearly 400 years after the birth of Christ !

So why was this date chosen ?

In his book *The Apocalypse and History*, W. H.

Boulton points out that the leading doctrines of the Trinity, the immortality of the soul, the worship of Madonna and Child, the festivals of Christmas and Easter are all of pagan origin.

So far as these doctrines are concerned they are directly opposed to the simple plain truths of the Bible... The festivals have been given Christian names to cover their heathen associations. That Jesus Christ was born, that he died and was raised from the dead are truths of supreme importance but the association of these facts with Christmas and Easter is quite unauthorised. In Deuteronomy

12:32 God declares: "What thing so ever I command you, observe to do it; thou shall not add thereto, nor diminish from it." The apostle Paul says in 2Corinthians 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord and touch not the unclean and I will receive you"

Also in 1Thessalonians 5:21-22 we are told to "prove all things; Hold fast to that which is good. Abstain from all appearances of evil."

Everyone has a responsibility to ensure that they uphold the Truth as revealed in God's inspired Word.



Significantly, the Celtic and Germanic tribes also held the period from December 25th to January 6th as sacred. It was believed that their pagan gods were present and active during that season.

*Colliers Encyclopedia* adds: “*The choice of December 25th was probably influenced by the fact that on this day the Romans celebrated a feast to their sun God ... Sometime before AD336, the church in Rome, unable to stamp out this pagan feast, spiritualized it as the feast of the nativity of Jesus Christ.*”

Those celebrating Christmas are thus identified with the pagan feast to the sun god.

Let us now examine whether the Bible provides any evidence whatever which suggests when Christ was born.

The Bible describes the circumstances in the well known words of Luke 2:6-8, that during the evening, “there were shepherds *abiding in the field* keeping watch over their flock by *night.*”

But December 25th in the Holy Land is in the middle of winter — when it would be extremely inappropriate for shepherds to have their flocks in the fields at evening. It gets extremely cold in those parts, often snowing heavily.

It would be more likely that the description refers to a much milder period: in summer or autumn, when it is more likely that the birth actually occurred. So even the date is incorrect!

#### **Why Bethlehem?**

Luke 2:1-3 testifies: “*It came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city*”

This decree, listed in historical records, required all the population of the Roman Empire to return to their place of birth in order to be listed on the official records.

It would be foolish of Caesar Augustus to make this decree during the bleak period of winter when travel would be extremely difficult for his subjects. Common sense would

suggest that milder weather would be more appropriate for people to journey.

It is without question that Christmas Day is not the birthdate of the Lord Jesus — it is not even close!

### **The Pagan Origin of Christmas**

What about other customs associated with Christmas?

They date back, beyond the time of Christ, to centuries before, to pagan Rome and have no true religious basis.

The Christmas Tree is one example of pagan tradition.

*Compton's Encyclopedia* states: "*The modern Christmas tree seems to have originated in Germany during the Middle Ages. A main prop in a medieval play about Adam and Eve was a fir tree hung with apples. Called the 'Paradise tree,' it represented the Garden of Eden. German families set up a Paradise tree in their homes on December 24, the feast day of Adam and Eve. On it they hung wafers, symbolizing the bread distributed at the celebration of the holy eucharist, or communion, in churches. Because the Christmas holiday followed immediately, candles representing Christ as the light of the world were often added to the tree. Eventually cookies and other sweets were hung instead of wafers. In the same room as the tree, Germans kept a Christmas pyramid made of wood, with shelves to hold figurines. The pyramid was also decorated with evergreens, candles, and a star. By the 16th century the pyramid and the Paradise tree had merged, becoming the Christmas tree so popular today.*"

History testifies that the Christmas tree and its decorating clearly dates right back to pagan times. It was the ancient custom of the Egyptians, Chinese and Hebrews. Tree worship was a common feature of religion amongst the Teutonic and Scandinavian peoples of Northern Europe before their conversion to Christianity, and the church has evidently taken the familiar pagan rituals and blended them into religious christian practice.

***This is completely at variance with Bible teaching which urges believers to keep separate from worldly practices, and especially in regard to matters of worship.***

The elements of modern-day Christmas celebrations were

actually borrowed from ancient, pagan winter festivals which used greenery, lights and fires to symbolise life and warmth in the midst of cold and darkness. These usages, like gift-giving, have also persisted. The most splendid symbol of a modern Christmas is the brilliantly decorated evergreen tree with strings of multicoloured lights. Significantly, God's people of Israel, 500 years before the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, were warned by the prophet Jeremiah that the nation was to keep itself separate from any of the traditions and teachings of the surrounding nations: *"Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the nations, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the nations are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good"* (Jeremiah 10:2-5).

This describes God's absolute condemnation of the way in which the Hebrew people practiced the use of evergreens and wreaths. How strange that "christians" continue to observe such practices in the season of Christmas today!

### **The Christmas Gift**

The popular giving of gifts is one of the oldest customs associated with Christmas. It is actually older than the holiday itself. Gifts play an important part in many of the festivals of pagan traditions and Christmas is no exception. But sadly commercialisation has overcome the generous spirit of former times. In the shopping complexes and advertising programs that proliferate at Christmas time, the sale and purchase of gifts has become an all-absorbing passion. The department stores, toy shops, and every other conceivable industry commercialise this festival for all its worth. Sales escalate, profits increase, large proportions of companies annual sales are made during the period, and if that is not enough, there are now the post-Christmas sales, and trading prospects, where even more money might be made.



What originally started as a good and humane gesture between people, has ended up for many merely as a money making, commercial exercise.

**Santa Claus Unveiled!**

And what of the person who supposedly provides all these gifts to the children? He is commonly known as "Santa Claus" or "Father Christmas," but is, in fact, one of the greatest imaginary legends of all time. And, unfortunately, today children are encouraged to believe in a lie, and learn to trust the adults who lie to them concerning this person and his work! Ask most young children and they will tell you that it is Santa Claus who brings them presents on Christmas eve! But it is a lie! And young people are encouraged to continue the lie!

So how did Santa come to be?

*Compton's Encyclopedia* states: "The legend of jolly old Santa Claus, or St. Nick, began with a real person: St. Nicholas, who lived many centuries ago. Although he is one of the most popular saints honoured by Christians, very little is actually known about him. He lived during the fourth century in Lycia, a province on the southwest coast of Asia Minor. Tradition says he was born in Patara, a seaport, and travelled to Egypt and Palestine as a young man. Eventually he became bishop of the church at Myra. During the period of the persecution of christians by Emperor Diocletian, he was imprisoned, but he was released by Diocletian's successor, Constantine the Great. By the sixth century

Santa Claus is not a Christian symbol, so his presence at a school party cannot constitute discrimination against Jewish pupils, the NSW Equal Opportunities Tribunal has ruled. The Tribunal dismissed a complaint by a Sydney Jewish man who testified that his children were required to practise Christmas songs, prepare Christmas cards, dance to Christmas tunes... The Tribunal accepted testimony by St. Mary's Cathedral Dean Anthony Doherty that while Santa Claus was a "delightful story," it had nothing to do with the Christian celebration of Christmas. —  
*Extracted from the Australian Jewish News, Nov. 1999.*

his burial shrine was well known at Myra. In 1087 his remains were moved to Bari, Italy, which became a crowded pilgrimage centre in his honour. Devotion to him spread through the Christian world, and he was chosen patron saint of Russia and Greece. Thousands of churches throughout Europe have been named for him. His feast day was set on December 6th... The transformation of St. Nicholas into Santa Claus, or Father Christmas, began in Germany among Protestant churches. There he was called *Kriss Kringle*, derived from **Christkindle**, meaning 'Christ-child,' and he became permanently associated with the Christmas season and gift giving. From there his legend spread to France, where he was called *Père Noël*. In the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam (now New York City) he was called *Sinter Claes*, which easily became *Santa Claus*. As Christmas became more widely celebrated, the legend grew. In 1823 Clement C. Moore wrote 'A Visit from St. Nicholas,' portraying Santa Claus riding in a sleigh drawn by 'eight tiny reindeer,' the same mode of travel he uses in Scandinavia. The first drawing of him that resembles today's Santa Claus was a cartoon by Thomas Nast that appeared in *Harper's Weekly* in 1866."

That explanation in the *Encyclopedia* is illuminating! It twice refers to the account of Santa Clause as "**a legend**," which is defined as "a traditional tale about a person or country often regarded locally as history, but which may or may not be true."

History is full of many notable legends which are either totally made up, or over time have been exaggerated beyond belief. Santa Claus is such a notable exaggeration!

The other important word mentioned in the *Encyclopedia* article is "**transformation**." This word means "to change in form, nature or character." There is much "transformation" in the story of Christmas. The article testifies that the Protestant churches in Germany were responsible in transforming a person Nicholas into Santa Claus. His name was changed to *Kriss Kringle* meaning "Christ-Child" in order to add a more religious flavor.

As years went by slowly the legend grew, both in regards to who he was and as to his size and shape. It was only in 1823, that

Santa Claus was portrayed riding in a sleigh drawn by eight reindeer. It was only in 1866 that a drawing appeared that resembles today's Santa.

He is the origin of one of the greatest lies of all time, and parents throughout the world continue to teach their children this lie. The lie becomes a fact to many of them, and they are thus taught to repeat lies as facts! In later life this results in much tragedy.

### **A Family Picture**

It is said that Christmas is for the children! Every year, in all parts of the world, in schools and churches, children depict the actual events surrounding the birth Jesus.

Adults co-ordinate the practices and plays, making sure that every thing runs smoothly, and with great feeling and sincerity these events are re-enacted that all might wonder and marvel.

***Yet, no matter how sincere, how much feeling is put into such performances, it is clearly evident that the TRUE significance of Christ's birth is lost!***

And, because of that his whole work and mission is misunderstood or completely ignored by Christians.

The reason we say this is because the stage curtain that introduce such presentations, generally opens with "baby Jesus" lying in a manger, there to remain until the following year. And the next year, a similar scene is portrayed. The "baby Jesus" always remains a baby! For decades the same portrayal is presented.

No other birthday is ever celebrated by reversing to the first one!

And surely there is more to this man, Jesus, than just his birth? Surely there was an important purpose in his *life*? Indeed there was!

Read again of the Biblical account in Luke 2:8-14.

*"There were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of*



great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*”

These seven verses report the well known incident regarding the shepherds who received the wonderful news concerning Christ's birth.

The words appear in such annual musical presentations as Handel's *The Messiah*. Many are able to recite word for word the angel's message to the shepherds; others are aware of it.

Yet while many can recite these verses, they seem completely ignorant of the final conclusion: *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”* These words are often forgotten in the recitation of the angel's words concerning the birth of Jesus. People read only what they want to read!

Why are the importance of these words not emphasised or understood? When is the last time you have heard the phrase: *“Glory to God in the highest...”*? The reason is that people prefer to indulge in a Christmas scene with a babe in a manger, than to consider what “glory to God in the highest” means. It is the same reason why, year after year, the “baby Jesus” is never allowed to grow up — he is always appearing in the same nativity scene; he never becomes “a man”!

The reason for this amazing paradox has to do with one word... **RESPONSIBILITY**. People want to remain uncomplicated by the need to recognise that the Lord Jesus Christ grew to become a teacher, a prophet and a saviour, rather than learn of his messages, listen to his warnings and seek the way of salvation in him. And that further demands discarding a way of life that does not conform to the Bible, and accepting the teachings of Jesus Christ in a mature and intelligent manner.

Responsibility requires acceptance of the song of the angel: *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to men.”* Notice that, in Luke 2:14, “glory to God” comes before

“peace and goodwill.” There can be no “peace and goodwill,” unless “glory to God” is upheld, and the only way that this can happen is by coming to an understanding of God’s plan and purpose with mankind, and with His Son, Jesus Christ.

Carefully read Luke 2:40, which reveals an important development in the life of Jesus: *“the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.”* God was continually overshadowing the child and caring for him. Thus, God was in absolute harmony with His Son, as the Son with his Father. As he grew, Jesus had to assume a maturing responsibility, so that verses 46-49 indicate his developing understanding of the purpose of his life and the godly principles that he would manifest to those about him. His guardians had come to Jerusalem for passover, and were returning to Nazareth when they noted the absence of the Lord Jesus in their company. They quickly returned to find where he might be: *“it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”*

The Lord was well aware of his purpose and mission in life. It was a mission that involved doing “His Father’s business,” and that included preaching to the people whenever and wherever possible concerning the purpose of His Father with the earth and mankind upon it. The Lord Jesus was born to be king, for at his birth wise men sought the answer to their quest: “Where is he that is born king of the Jews” (Matthew 2:2).

For thirty years the Lord Jesus developed in the cause of his Father, manifesting an exemplary life, teaching the people concerning the “Kingdom of God” (see Matthew 6:34; 12:48; 19:24, etc). Finally, at trial the governor demanded of him: “Art thou the king of the Jews” (ch. 27:11), and when they crucified

him an inscription was placed over his cross: "*Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews*" (v. 37).

Although to his faithful and believing disciples, he was their king, mankind generally rejected him then, and continue to do so today.

As families gather around a nativity scene, they have little idea of the true purpose of the Master; they enjoy the Christmas tree, the gifts and feasting, with little thought concerning what the Bible really teaches.

In fact, the world celebrates Christ's birth at Christmas time, but the Bible is more concerned with his sacrifice and death — it is in this great work that salvation is found, for the Scripture states: "*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection*" (Romans 6:4-5). It testifies that we should be honouring his sacrifice, and demonstrating that principle in a true belief, baptism and a walking in a life of obedience.

Please write to the address on the back cover for a copy of our free booklet: *Christ's Death and Your Salvation*, which will outline in greater detail the facts concerning this most important event in the work of the Lord Jesus and its impact upon believers.

### **The King is Coming**

The Lord Jesus was born for the express purpose of ruling, not at that time when he was born — but in the future, for soon he is to return in order that he might change this evil and desperate world, and establish the kingdom of God promised from the beginning of history. This kingdom will be unsurpassed in glory and grandeur; it will be worldwide and bring blessings to all mankind. It will last for one thousand years: the great millennium (Revelation 20:4).

The Bible invites people to respond to its call, to withdraw from the wickedness and ignorance of society, and to devote one's life to following the way of Jesus Christ. It is not enough



to know about his birth; one must know about his life, and his sacrificial death. To believe the Word of God, is "to give glory to God in the highest." It is to understand the purpose and mission of Christ, and to respect and honor God for all that he has done.

It is our responsibility to act in this way!

The upholding of a false pagan tradition can do nothing for us; indeed it can blind us to the true importance of the One who they profess to remember. The Master declared: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Notice these three important features:

He is the only **Way**, for he reveals the means whereby a person might secure a place in God's coming Kingdom. We must follow the example he set forth in his work amongst men two thousand years ago.

He is the **Truth**, for the words and teachings he declared are the means by which we can obtain that reward. We must listen to the gospel he teaches, and not be persuaded by traditions, that come from pagan origins.

He is the **Life**, for he offers us the opportunity to obtain eternal life in the imminent kingdom of God that he is to set up on earth. He prayed: "*this is life eternal that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent*" (John 17:3).

#### **A Warning and An Explanation**

The Lord Jesus left this earth nearly 2,000 years ago with the promise that he will come again. He told his disciples: "*I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am,*



Further  
Helpful  
Reading:

**"Christmas —  
Its Strange  
Origin"**

Price:

**Australia: 50¢;  
Sth Africa: R2;  
New Zealand:  
75¢; UK: 30p;  
USA: 45¢;  
Canada: 65¢**

Available  
from the  
publishers, see  
inside front cover.

*there ye may be also*" (John 14:2-3). He is coming back to this earth to establish a divine kingdom thereupon. This is clearly the message given to those friends gathered with him for the last moment when he stood on the Mount of Olives, and was taken from them into heaven. They watched him ascend from their company, and were told by angels nearby: "*Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven*" (Acts 1:11). This is very clear, unambiguous and absolute! There can be no doubt about it. This is the great picture of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory that should exercise our hearts and mind. It is only then that there will be true "peace on earth and goodwill towards men."

Shortly the world is going to witness the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, for he will appear in power and great glory (Matthew 24:30).

#### **A Great Shock Ahead!**

Today, the world knows Jesus Christ only as the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

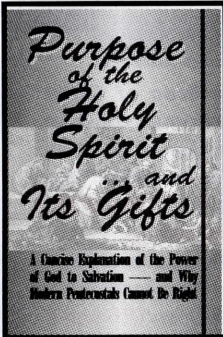
To the vast majority his coming will be a shock !

Changes will be made to the social conditions; kingdoms and thrones will be toppled; peoples will be brought into subjection to the great king.

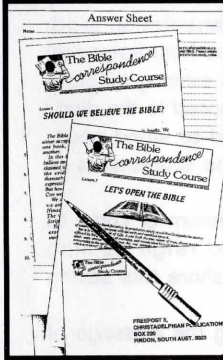
For those who have believed the Scriptures, followed its teachings, given their lives to God, these grand and wondrous events will not come as a surprise, for they anticipate the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that he brings joy and gladness.

— G. Mitsos.

---



**M**ANY consider that the gift of the Holy Spirit is essential in order that believers might understand the purpose of the Bible. But this is not correct, and those who so assert are leading astray their contemporaries. Pentecostals, who claim to possess Holy Spirit gifts, cannot demonstrate its true meaning nor its power, and are clearly preaching a doctrine incompatible with the Bible. We urge the reader to obtain a copy of this booklet, and to read the evidence. By this means the Truth of God's Word will become apparent.



## Correspondence Course

This course will enlighten you in a step by step method, to the story of the Bible, and outline the fundamental doctrines that are essential for life eternal. The Course has 20 lessons, and includes a helpful question and answer sheet with each study. Lesson 2 includes a handy plastic folder in which to retain the series. A special newsletter is also available, drawing attention to current events in the light of Bible Prophecy. *This Course can be obtained from the publishers:*

*Herald of the Coming Age, Box 220, Findon, South Australia 5023.*



**FORWARD THIS COUPON TO THE ADDRESS ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS PAGE FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE BOOK ADVERTISED ABOVE.**

**There is no obligation attached to this special offer.**

*Please forward to me the booklet:*

## THE PURPOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ITS GIFTS

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss.....

Address: .....

.....Postcode .....

## THE CHRISTADELPHIANS

...or, as the name means, the *Brethren of Christ* (**Hebrews 2:11**), are a body of people associated together by a belief in the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ (**Acts 8:12**); and by immersion into Christ (**Galatians 3:27**) for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**) and identification with his resurrection (**Romans 6:5**).

They do not profess to have received any new revelation, but hold that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are able to make a person wise unto salvation (**2Timothy 3:15-17**). Believing in the divine authorship of the Bible, they think it only reasonable to reject any interpretation which fails to harmonise all the testimonies of the Holy Scriptures; and, finding that the creeds of the various existing religious groups are, in a great variety of ways, opposed to the direct teaching of the Bible, they feel compelled to stand apart, making appeal in all such matters to the statements of Scripture, and testing all teachings thereby.

They believe in the personal, visible return of Christ to the earth, to establish his power and reign as king throughout the world, and they seek to share this saving knowledge with others.

They offer their services in expounding the message of the Bible without cost of any kind.

## SPECIAL FREE OFFER

### HOW TO SEND THIS COUPON

Just cut out this coupon.

Place it in an envelope addressed to:

No Postage  
Stamp Required  
if Posted in  
Australia

**Reply Paid AAA3,  
Christadelphian Publications,  
P.O. Box 220,  
Findon, South Australia 5023**