



15 - 21 Dec, 2019

Jesus Christ, the purpose of Christmas

**‘When Jesus heard it, He said to them,
‘Those who are well have no need of a physician,
but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous,
but sinners, to repentance’ Mark 2:17**

Christmas is Christ; It is reconciliation

‘The present night is the night of reconciliation’

† *‘Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation’ 2 Cor 5:18*

‘therefore, let no one be angry his brother and offend him!’

† *‘And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you’ 2 Cor 5:19-20*

Christmas is peace

‘This night gave peace to the whole world’

† *‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid’ Jn 14:27*

‘and so, let no one threaten’

† *‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God’ Mt 5:9*

† *‘But counselors of peace have joy’ Prv 12:20b*

Christmas is humility

‘This is the night of the Most Meek One’

† *‘Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross’ Phil 2:6-8*

'let no one be cruel!'

† ***'But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant' Mt 23:8***

Christmas is for sinners

'Today God came unto sinners'

† ***'But I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance' Lk 5:32***

'let not the righteous exalt himself over sinners!'

† ***'And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye' Mt 7:3-5***

Christmas is being poor

'Today the Most Rich One became poor for our sake'

† ***'But for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich' 2 Cor 8:9***

'let the rich man invite the poor to his table!'

† ***'But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just' Lk 14:13-14***

'Today we received a gift which we did not ask for; let us bestow alms to those who cry out to us and beg!'

'The present day has opened the door of Heaven to our prayers; let us also open our door to those who ask of us forgiveness!' Saint Ephraim the Syrian

The wise men and king Herod (Mt 2:1-12)

- † The wise men were reconciled to God although they came from a different religion
- † The knowledge of science that they had did not distract them from Seeing the Truth
- † They humbled themselves and knelt before the boy Who is the Lord Jesus
- † All their riches counted as nothing

- † King Herod could not accept the idea of losing any of his worldly riches
- † He pursued Christ aiming to get rid of Him

Bibliography

1. 'On the Night of Nativity.' Orthodox.net. Accessed September 10, 2019. <http://www.orthodox.net/nativity/on-night-of-nativity-ephraim-syrian.html>.
2. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord' Luke 2:11

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

- † Christ descended from Heaven to earth to lift us up

My reaction

- † Am I loving my brother and sister as He loves me?
- † Am I kneeling and thanking Him for all the greatest act of love He did for me?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity

13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Armenian Orthodox Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية

أبانا الذي في السموات
 ليتقدّس إسمُك
 ليأت ملكوتك
 لتكن مشيئتك
 كما في السماء
 كذلك على الأرض
 أعطنا خبزنا كفات يومنا
 واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا
 كما نحن نغفر
 لمن أخطأ وأساء إلينا
 ولا تُدخِلنا في التجارب
 لكن نجنا من الشرير
 آمين

قانون الإيمان

نؤمن بالله واحد
 أب ضابط الكل
 خالق السماء والأرض
 كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
 وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح
 ابن الله الوحيد
 المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
 إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
 مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر
 الذي به كان كل شيء
 الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
 نزل من السماء
 وتجسد بالروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
 وصار إنساناً وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
 وتألّم ومات وقبر
 وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب
 وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الأب
 وسيأتي أيضاً بمجد عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات
 الذي لا فناء لمملكه
 وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي
 المُنبتق من الأب والإبن، الذي هو مع الأب والإبن
 يُسجد له ويُمجّد، الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
 وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدّسة، رسولية
 ونعترف بعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
 وننتظر قيامة الأموات والحياة في الدهر الآتي
 آمين