

# PRAISE News

December 2023

Foundation of Praise • P.O. Box 2518 • Escondido, CA 92033-2518 • 760.741.2755 • www.foundationofpraise.org

## WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

By Merlin Carothers



What will Christmas mean to us this year? Probably many different things. But what does Jesus' Father want Christmas to mean?

In our lifetime there have been many changes in what business and public schools want Christmas to mean. Notice what you see this time of year. Most stores will celebrate "Xmas". Many schools will sing "Jingle Bells" but nothing about Baby Jesus. Bit by bit changes keep moving our country toward making Christmas a non-Christian holiday.

What can we do? We can get back to the emphasis that our Heavenly Father wants us to have when we talk about His Son. We can remember that God designed Jesus' birthday for His own special purpose. A Child was born who would show the world what God wants to do for those whom He created in His own image.

What should we think about during this season?

1. This is the birthday of God's Son.
2. The ways we can honor His Son.

Is it appropriate to give presents to others just as God gave Jesus to us? Yes, because Jesus taught us to give blessings to others. But, above everything else God wants Jesus to be honored *for being our Savior*. He is the *reason* we celebrate His birthday.

Our priority this Christmas should be, "Jesus is Lord." He said no person could ever enter Heaven

except through faith in Him. Of course, that makes some people angry. Others think we should not offend anyone by repeating what God said. But here is what we say we believe: *Salvation is found in no one else for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved* (Acts 4:12). Also in John 14:6: *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*. Because of what Jesus taught He was crucified! Through the years many Christians have been executed because they refused to renounce what He said. I have been told that more people were martyred for their faith in Jesus during the last century than in all the previous years since Jesus was crucified.

Jesus' words are sometimes ignored or criticized. But we should not remain silent about our faith in who He is! If we say Jesus is our Savior that means we depend on Him to give us eternal life. Jesus should be at the very front of our hearts and tongues. We are the ones God has chosen to tell the whole world who His Son is.

Let's do our best this Christmas season to honor Jesus, as God wants Him to be honored! We do not need to argue with others. Sometimes our silent loving behavior can speak louder than words. We are gloriously saved children of God who believe that He is the reason we have great joy!

(Reprint from December, 2006)





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**CHRISTMAS** \* \* \* \* \*  
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By Mary Carothers

One night long ago, near the little town of Bethlehem, shepherds were in the field, watching over their sheep.

There is no indication that this night was any different from other nights. Perhaps they had a small fire and were sitting around it. Some might have been dozing, while others were alert, listening for sounds from the sheep that might mean trouble.

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared. With the sound of his voice and the glory shining all around, they were instantly wide-awake. Their immediate reaction was fear, but the angel's first words were, **Be not afraid**. God had good news for them! The angel told them of the Savior's birth in nearby Bethlehem. Then he told them how to find the Lord. He would be wrapped in the clothes that babies wore at that time, lying in a manger (where cattle fed). But the angel didn't tell them which manger would cradle the Christ Child, or even behind which inn it would be found.

Can you imagine how many mangers there might have been in Bethlehem at that time? The town was so crowded that there had been no room for Mary and Joseph at the inn. People in that day traveled on donkeys and camels so there also would have been little room to shelter their animals. The Lord was to be found only by those who persevered in seeking Him. The shepherds had to search in many places for Jesus before they found where He lay.

The Christian life also requires perseverance. The "race" that Paul talks about in Hebrews 12 is a marathon race, not a 50-yard dash. It requires patience and endurance.

Did you know that Romans 5:3 tells us that our troubles can produce perseverance in us? That certainly is **not** one of my favorite verses! I would much rather receive the answers to my prayers quickly and easily. However, that's not the way God usually deals with us. Hebrews 10:36 tells us that we need to persevere to receive God's promises.

The shepherds felt great joy when they found the Lord. They praised and glorified God. What a blessing to be chosen to be the very first people to see God's Anointed One. And just think! They might have missed that special blessing if they had not persevered in searching for Him. Jeremiah 29:13 tells us that the Lord is found when we search for Him with all our heart.

Do you need help from the Lord? For physical healing? Finances or broken relationships? In coping with grief or insecurity, emotional pain? God does not hide Himself from us, but He is found when we seek Him with all our heart.

All too often we feel we should be able to pull up to God's "drive-in window", and receive a full order of health, prosperity and answers to our prayers. It is true that all our needs are met in Christ Jesus. It is also true that He may want us to learn something, along the way, to mature in a particular area. Real life requires perseverance.

Let's make a decision to learn to persevere. Not only will this honor the Lord, but it will be a blessing to us. Can you think of a more blessed gift than to someday hear Jesus say: **You have persevered and endured** (Rev. 2:3). This season let's give Jesus the Christmas present of seeking Him with all our heart.

**THANK YOU!**

A big **THANK YOU** for all the cards and letters I received wishing me a Happy Birthday! They were greatly appreciated and I was blessed by them. **MARY**



**THE FOUNDATION OF PRAISE**  
has received gifts

**In Loving Memory of:**

**In Honor of:**

**Willis L. Kent, Sr**

By his wife Dianne  
of Kings Mountain, NC

**Merlin Carothers**

By George & Gwen Dilworth  
of Cape May, NJ

**Wray Lawson**

By Charlotte Jennings  
of Fort Smith, AR

**Mary Carothers**

By George & Gwen Dilworth  
of Cape May, NJ

*Our loss is Heaven's gain! Our prayers are with those who loved them.*

State Prison, Deer Lodge, MT  
Work Camp, Saint Anthony, ID  
McPherson Unit, Newport, AR  
Henry County Jail, Cambridge, IL  
Correctional Institute, Jessup, MD  
Garza West Unit, Beeville, TX  
Coastal Regional Center, Belfast, ME  
Correctional Institute, Cross City, FL  
Wake County Detention, Raleigh, NC  
Bartow County Jail, Cartersville, GA  
Jail Ministry for Jesus, LaHarpe, IL  
Delta Regional Unity, Dermott, AR  
Correctional Institute, McCormick, SC  
Jackson County Jail, Brownstown, IN  
State Correctional Facility, Larned, KS  
Northampton County Prison, Easton, PA  
St. Joseph County Jail, Centreville, MI  
Shawnee County Detention, Topeka, KS  
Halawa Correctional Facility, Aiea, HI  
Correctional Center, St. Martinsville, LA  
Taylor Correctional Institute, Perry, FL  
Correctional Complex, West Liberty, KY  
Whitworth Women's Facility, Hartwell, GA  
Morgan County Detention, Wartburg, TN  
Riverside Regional Jail, N. Prince George, VA  
Berkshire County Detention, Pittsfield, MA  
Lauderdale County Detention, Meridian, MS  
Otero County Prison Facility, Chaparral, NM  
Century Regional Detention, Lynwood, CA  
Women's Community Corrections, Kailua, HI  
Kinross Correctional Facility, Kincheloe, MI  
Prince William Detention Center, Manassas, VA  
Raymond Laborde Corrections, Cottonport, LA  
George County Correctional Facility, Lucedale, MS  
Edmonton Institution for Women, Alberta, Canada  
Oneida County Correctional Facility, Oriskany, NY  
Central Regional Detention Facility, Lynwood, CA  
Clinton County Correctional Facility, McElhattan, PA  
Mecklenburg County Detention Center, Charlotte, NC  
North Branch Correctional Institute, Cumberland, MD

*Your faithful  
support has  
enabled us to  
send free  
praise books to  
the following  
facilities!*

**JUST A REMINDER**

Year-end contributions to the

**Foundation of Praise,**

per the IRS, must be

mailed and postmarked by

December 31, 2023 to receive

credit as a 2023 tax-deductible gift.



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO  
READ THE BIBLE  
THROUGH IN 2024?**

We will send you a free copy of the Bible Reading

Chart upon request. You may also download a copy

from our website at [www.foundationofpraise.org](http://www.foundationofpraise.org).

We hope you will value it enough to

place it in your Bible – and use it daily!

*Man shall not live on bread alone,*

*but on every word that comes*

*from the mouth of God*

(Matthew 4:4).

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# CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

## #1 The Bible on Praise

When Merlin searched for Bible verses that spoke to him of giving praise to God, he was surprised that there were so many in both the Old and New Testaments. The more he read and meditated on them, the greater his joy became. This little booklet of sixteen pages will truly bless those who read it.



**Buy 2 copies for \$9.75**

**Buy 5 copies for \$17.75**

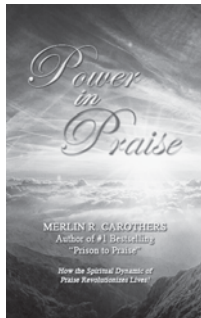
**Buy 10 copies for \$32.50**

**Buy 25 copies for \$61.50**

**(All prices include the shipping charges)**



This year, instead of sending out greeting cards, write your message on the inside cover of the *Bible on Praise* where it will be enjoyed by friends and family. God's own words will be read over and over by those to whom you send this booklet. The front cover was painted by Merlin and mailing envelopes are included.



## #2 Free Large Print Book

Buy a *Power in Praise*, Large Print Edition for \$15  
(includes shipping - \$25 value)

and receive a *Prison to Praise*, Large Print Edition FREE.



This offer is available through December 31, 2023. For credit card orders call 1-800-PRAISE1 (1-800-772-4731). Shipping applies to one U.S. address. Please call 760-741-2755 for foreign rates or for additional shipping information.



Oh! Why leave the Christ out of Christmas?  
 Why substitute "X" for His name?  
 There is naught else on earth or in heaven,  
 Can ever make Christmas the same.  
 Be it thoughtlessness, hate, or indifference  
 By my fault I grieve and offend.  
 When I leave the Christ  
 out of Christmas  
 I'm slighting my very best friend.  
 (Author Unknown)

