



W
F. HAN
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Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re-ceive a King;
Joy to the world! the Sav-ior reigns; Let men their songs em-ploy,
More let sin and sor-row grow, Nor thorns in-fest the ground,
As the world with truth and grace, And makes the na-tions prove

Ev-'ry heart pre-pare Him room, And heav'n and nature sing,
And fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, Re-peat the sounding joy,
And comes to make His bless-ings flow Far as the curse is found,
And glo-ries of His righteous-ness, And wonders of His love,

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And heav'n and na-ture sing,
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Far as, far as the curse is
of His love,
And wonders, and won-ders of His

Christmas...

I wonder what you think of Christmas? It saddens me to realise that if most people were asked this question, they would not dream of mentioning the Lord Jesus in their reply. This would certainly have been true of me until I was about twenty years old.

But there are others who certainly would say that the coming of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into this world as a baby, is why Christmas is really special to them. They truly believe in Him.

You could say that Christmas is special to them because Jesus is precious to them. They are described in the Bible as true believers - God says that *To you who believe He* (the Lord Jesus Christ) *is precious*. If I am a genuine believer He is precious to me. No wonder believers in the Lord Jesus celebrate His coming into this world. He is central to their entire lives!

The **reason** Jesus is precious to true believers is signified by His very name - Jesus means Saviour - and God made it very plain that He was to be called JESUS. An angel was sent by God to tell Mary (Jesus' virgin mother) *you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and call His name JESUS*. An angel also told Joseph that Mary (his fiancée) was to bear a Son through the Holy Spirit and said: *You shall call His name JESUS for He shall save His people from their sins*. May we never forget - the name JESUS actually means **Saviour**.

On many occasions Jesus said that He came *to save His people* - to be their Saviour and that to do this He would have to die. He said: *the Son of Man came into the world not to be served - but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many*. He paid the penalty for the sins of all His people. This He did when He died on the cross. This is why He had to be given the name JESUS - Saviour.

No wonder God decided that this amazing event would be marked by dividing time itself into two periods - the period before Jesus came - and since. Soon our year will change to record the fact that it will then be 2021 years since God sent His Son into the world to be the Saviour of everyone who truly believes in Him.

It is of vital importance for every one of us to **know** that Jesus **IS** precious to **me**. The Bible's clear teaching is wonderfully summarised in this way: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*. This is why every true believer in Jesus can say from their heart that His coming into the world means everything to them.

God teaches us that death is not the end of our existence. *It is appointed unto man once to die - but after death the judgment*. There will be a judgment but genuine believers should never fear death because they will *not perish but have everlasting life* - Jesus has paid the penalty for all their sins so they will not perish. No wonder Jesus is so precious to everyone who believes in Him! No wonder we celebrate Christmas! And no wonder we long and pray that the Lord Jesus will soon be precious to many others too!

Please join us at the Chapel whenever you can - we would love to welcome you!

Sincerely,

George Rabey (Pastor)



Joy to the World
the Lord has come

*Joy to the World! the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields & floods, rocks, hills & plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love.*

Joy
to the world!
The Lord is come



Five Ash Down Chapel Services

Sunday Services

are at 11.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Good News Group

Sundays 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon

(Children 3 years and over)

Prayer and Bible Study

Thursdays 7.30 p.m.

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