What is so special about Christmas? Philippians 2:5-11 Pastor Dwight Anderson, www.prisonmission.org

1. THE <u>RELEVANCE</u> OF CHRISTMAS:

God came to Earth!

Your attitude should be the same as that of <u>Christ Jesus: {6} Who, being in</u> very nature God. Philippians 2:5-6

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" John 8:58

Christ is the <u>exact likeness of the unseen God</u>. He existed before God made anything at all, and in fact, <u>Christ himself is the Creator</u> who made everything in heaven and earth. Colossians 1:15-16a

I and the Father are one. John 10:30

2. THE <u>REALITY</u> OF CHRISTMAS:

God became a man (human being)

He made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in <u>human likeness</u>. {8} And being found <u>in appearance as a man</u>. Philippians 2:7-8

How was Jesus like us?

* Jesus was born like us

(Mary) gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger. Luke 2:6-7

* Jesus grew like us

Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men. Luke 2:52

* Jesus was tempted like us

(Jesus was) tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. Hebrews 4:15

* Jesus suffered like us

My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me. Matthew 26:38

3. THE REASON FOR CHRISTMAS:

Jesus came to die

He humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! v8b $\,$

Why did Jesus do it?

(1) To demonstrate God's love

God <u>showed his great love for us</u> by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners" Romans 5:8

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. 1 John 4:9

(2) To pay for my sins

He personally <u>carried the load of our sins</u> in his own body when he died on the cross, so that we can be finished with sin and live a good life. 1 Peter 2:24

4. THE <u>RESULT</u> OF CHRISTMAS:

Jesus is <u>Lord!</u>

Therefore God <u>exalted him</u> to the highest place and gave him <u>the name</u> <u>that is above every name</u>, {10} that at the name of Jesus <u>every knee should</u> <u>bow</u>, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, {11} and <u>every tongue</u> <u>confess</u> that Jesus Christ is Lord. Philippians 2:9-11a

What does it mean to call Jesus 'Lord'?

It means that I...

- * Acknowledge that he is God
- * Believe that He has everything under control
- * Commit all of my life to Christ

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9