

Coronavirus brings back the real meaning of Christmas



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Over the years Christmas had turned into a shopping spree. During this time many people used to indulge in food, alcohol and other excess. Few people knew and bothered about what Christmas was actually about. As people are dying around the world this year, people fighting for breath in emergency rooms or are restricted from leaving their homes separated from their loved ones, we have time now to reflect on our life, future, and purpose. It brings us back to Christmas.

Yes, this world needs a savior. No, not just a vaccine for a virus, but for many of the world's problems. Regardless whether the newly released vaccines work, whether we have another series of mutating new viruses ahead of us or not, this year alone has shown mankind's limited ability to solve our problems. Science has not prevented a million plus people from being killed by a flu virus. Technology could not get us back to normality. Movie stars, celebrities and politicians did not have the answers. Our self-chosen idols miserably failed us. And they will fail us again in the future.

Throughout history mankind always tried to lead their own lives. Why need God, if we are so smart? Who needs God in the 21st century with all science and technology, right? But again it shows: Yes, we do need God!

At Christmas we remember who created the world and who came into the world with the offer to save us

1 *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind."*

9 *"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."* (Gospel of John, 1: 1 through 14 / Bible)

God came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ to save us. He gave each of us a choice: To become a child of God, not by our human birth, but by put our faith in his designated savior.

We got a problem: God is good, but we are not!

Religions around the world teach that we have to do something or refrain from doing something in order to make us acceptable to God. The problem is: we cannot make ourselves holy. As the Bible says: *"for all I have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Rom 3:23.

Many have tried and all have failed. Man-made religions and rituals cannot help us. Only a true relationship with God himself can.

God provides the solution

"16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* (John 3:16-17)

God offers a personal relationship with Him through Jesus Christ God taking on the nature of man (we remember His

birth on Christ-mas) and dying for our personal wrong doings and mess-ups that separate us from God.

We cannot make ourselves holy that is why God offers us a new life – for free!

... and all are justified freely by God's grace through the redemptions that came by Jesus Christ." (Rom 3:23-24).

8 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—***9** *not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

Jesus paid the price for you so that you could experience this new life

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the **new** creation has come: The old has gone, the **new** is here! (2nd Corinthians 5:17)"*

Yes, Jesus took all your sins upon himself and died for it. Because Jesus is God who died and rose again. That is why only Jesus can save you and I.

"6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6*

You receive gift when you take it. So take it. Take that new life!

9 *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. **11** As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." Rom 10:9-11*