

A Goal for the Christmas Season:
*Look Away From the Troubles of the Earth &
Joyfully Remember the Greatest Gift Ever Given*

At times I have difficulty watching the news. Most of the stories are about evil and strife in the world. It is disheartening. We are not going to solve all the world's problems, and in reality, only God can do that in the end time. What we can do, however, is to take respite during the Christmas season. Instead of focusing on the troubles facing our families, our community, our nation and the world, let us joyfully remember the greatest gift ever given – God's son, Jesus Christ. He was, is now, and will always be the hope for all mankind.



During this Christmas season let us have a positive mindset of what Jesus did for all of us. Evangelist Billy Graham said, "For the believer there is hope beyond the grave, because Jesus Christ has opened the door to heaven for us by His death and resurrection."

The news during the time Jesus lived on earth wasn't any more positive or hopeful than what we face today. The news media probably had a field day with the resistance to Jesus' birth, his life and teachings. But Jesus had a much more important agenda than the 11:00 news. He was concerned with increasing the number of believers and ensuring an eternal future for as many people as possible. Jesus certainly would have been more concerned with people's souls than with the news of the day. So, this Christmas, let us focus our attention on Jesus and the meaning behind the Christmas story. The hope for the world started with God's gift in a stable in the tiny town of Bethlehem.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials (Peter 1:3-6).



For the rest of this Christmas season, don't lament over what you read in the newspaper, watch on television or observe in our broken world. Instead rejoice for what Jesus' life means to you eternally. Re-direct your thoughts from despair about the condition of the world to hope in what Jesus has done for all of us. Let this Christmas be a time to look away from the troubles of earth and joyfully remember the greatest Gift ever given.

Question: What is most important to you this Christmas season – the despair of the world or the Hope for each of us through Jesus Christ?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We thank you for the birth of your son, Jesus Christ. His presence in our lives helps us overcome the failures of the world, if we focus on Him. Let us take respite from the troubles of the world and focus on You. Amen.