

For a large segment of the population it's easier to just ignore the true meaning of Christmas. But how can you scrap the meaning and still have the party? Easy: just make up a jolly ole character to represent the occasion; one who is nice, sweet and never asks for a change in our behavior or life-style. Santa Claus does just that. He helps us justify our excessive materialism and consumption at this time of year. He also helps us "forget" the real meaning of Christmas and to celebrate this birthday party without inviting the One whose life we are supposedly celebrating.

Jingle-bells, jingle-bells... Enjoy the festivity and don't even think about your eternal destiny.

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Please open
(unfold) and
read inside.

It's Christmas time! But... what does Christmas really mean? Let's be honest. For some, Christmas is nothing more than decorations, parties, presents and a special time to be with the family. For commercial establishments Christmas means big money: business is good and sales are definitely up. The occasion is exploited to such an extent that the original purpose of Christmas is forgotten in the process.

Show you really love them this Christmas: give them our products. Need a little "peace on earth"? Just say "charge it!"

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7 Why not give your heart to Jesus right now? Just speak to God as you would to a friend. You can do so like this:

Father, thank you for loving me! I want to receive your son Jesus as the best Christmas Gift in the world! I ask that He come into my heart and be my Savior and Lord. I know that through Jesus I can receive Your forgiveness and the assurance that I will live with you forever. I want to give you my heart because from now on I'd like to live for You. In Jesus name, amen.

Jesus promises: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

J
3:16

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Scripture quotations from the NIV

Read the Bible. Pray. Join a Christian church that teaches Jesus as the only way to God.



3 The joy of a Christmas like that does not last very long. On the other hand, the real Christmas is incredibly exciting! What's behind this date? Nothing less than the birthday of the very Son of God. That is, the celebration of the day God sent His Son to the world to save us (the name **Jesus** means "Savior").

That's right. He came to save us because from the beginning of our history our sin separated us from God. We broke His laws, ignored His will and severed our relations with Him.



4 But, because He loves us so very much, God wants to make peace with us. That's why He gave us the most precious thing He had: the life of His very own Son. The Bible says "that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God"

(2 Corinthians 5:19-21).



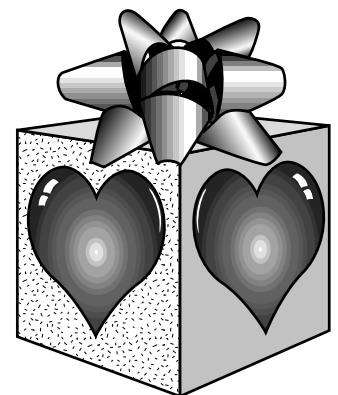
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Christmas is the biggest proof that God really loves us. The Bible says: "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Jesus – the King of kings – spared nothing to provide us with the best blessings from God: He was born in a little barn, to a very humble family; He lived a life of service and, although He never committed a sin, died the horrible death of a criminal, on a cross. That is why the genuine Christmas celebrates life, hope, eternal security, reconciliation and peace with God.

6 Christmas is Jesus's birthday, yet we are the ones who receive a special Gift! And if we accept this Gift (that is, Jesus Himself), God will also accept us as His very own children. The Bible guarantees: "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). So, this Christmas, give your heart to Jesus. Let Him be the center of your festivities. Better yet, allow Him to be the center of your life. Your Christmas will never be the same again!

*This
Christmas,
give Jesus
the best gift
you've got:
your heart.*



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