Jesus is Our Sure Hope:

What is Christmas?

For most people, we think Christmas is about reunions, eating, shopping, and giving gifts. The word CHRISTMAS has a very profound meaning: CHRIST is the title of Jesus, and "MAS" comes from the word MAESSE (festival) which is connected to the word MISSA (to let go or to send). Christmas is about Christ sending all of us out to proclaim His message: the Good News!

In Luke 2:10-13, and verse 20, God sent an angel to declare the "GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY to all the people". The angel proclaimed three titles of Jesus:

- 1. JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR: We have one major problem: SIN, which is self-will against the will of God. Christmas tells us that God is for us: He gave us a Savior and did not spare Him out of His love for us (Romans 8:31-32).
- 2. JESUS IS CHRIST: He is the promised Messiah, Anointed King, and Chosen One predicted in the Old Testament prophecies and recorded in the genealogies.
- 3. JESUS IS LORD: The gospel is not simply a ticket to heaven — it is recognizing His Lordship over our lives, which requires the complete obedience He demands. We are saved by grace, and because of Jesus our lives will change!

What is the significance of Christmas?

Christmas also tells us that Jesus is COMING AGAIN! We need to understand that Jesus came for our salvation, sanctification, and glorification. We will experience glorification during the second coming. In the meantime, we worship God, which is our response to who He is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do.

FIRST COMING	SECOND COMING
Bethlehem	Mount of Olives
(Micah 5:2)	(Zechariah 14:4, Acts 1:11-12)
Low key / quiet	Glory and power (Luke 21:27,
(Luke 2:12, 16-18)	Matthew 24:30)
Savior (Luke 2:11)	Judge and King (2 Timothy 4:1-2, Matthew 16:26-27)
Good News	Good and bad news
(Luke 2:10)	(Acts 10:42, 2 Thessalonians 1)

What do the prophecies reveal about the second coming? In Matthew 24:6-8, we learn about the signs: wars, rumors of wars, famines, and earthquakes.

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LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

The central role of Israel in the second coming is often overlooked, but Ezekiel 36-37 vividly describes God's plan to fully restore Israel, which is a promise realized in 1948. Ezekiel 38-39 provides a glimpse into the end times, detailing nations and groups opposing Israel. God permits these nations to attack Israel (Ezekiel 38:15-16) but they are ultimately defeated (Ezekiel 39:1-6). Furthermore, Zechariah 14:2-4 prophesies a great day of battle where God intervenes and Israel recognizes Jesus by the grace of God (Zechariah 12:10).

How should we respond to Christmas?

Matthew 2:1-12 reveals how HEROD, the PRIESTS, and the WISE MEN responded to Christ's first coming

- Herod, alarmed by the news from the wise men, inquired about the Messiah's birthplace: BETHLEHEM, as said by the priests through prophecy (Micah 5:2). Herod sent the wise men under the pretense of worship as he perceived Jesus as a threat to his rule. Here we learn that trying to control our lives is futile.
- The priests and scribes on the other hand, aware of the prophecy yet preoccupied with duties and selfrighteousness, did not go to Bethlehem. We must avoid imitating their busyness and sincerely worship God, understanding who Jesus is.
- The wise men were guided by a star and eventually found the child Jesus. They worshiped Him and offered heartfelt gifts. Their example shows that true worship involves genuine giving. Understanding Christmas is one thing, but genuine worship entails action.

The shepherds in Luke 2:15-16 exemplify ideal worship, prioritizing Jesus above all else. Let's make Jesus our top priority, like the shepherds who, having seen the child Jesus, shared their experience and GLORIFIED GOD. Let's truthfully share about Jesus and glorify God in all we do.

Our response to Christmas shapes our future experience when Jesus comes again. His return is a correction of wrongs and a manifestation of righteousness and justice. The penalty for not abiding in Jesus is eternal. Retribution awaits those reject with God, and they are separated from His presence. God will repay those who afflict His people and provide relief to His followers (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9). We will be glorified in Christ alone (2 Thessalonians 1:10-12). Let's steadfastly cling to Jesus, our sure hope, and respond to Him with genuine worship.

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LAST WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE	DISCUSS THIS MESSAGE	
		DOWNLOAD THIS
But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid;	What is Christmas to you and what is its significance?	CHRONICLE ONLINE!
for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today	How should we correctly respond to Christmas?	ccf.org.ph/chronicle/
in the city of David there has been born for	What do you commit to do this Christmas in order to	.
you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.	worship and please Jesus Christ, our Savior and our	DOWNLOAD THIS SUNDAY'S
LILKE 2.10-11	sure hope, this season?	4WS EVERY MONDAY!

LUKE 2:10-11

Jesus makes all things new!

Let's talk about it at the **Welcome Center**!

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WOMEN2WOMEN ALL WOMEN

WOW THURSDAYS IS ON CHRISTMAS BREAK!

ccfwomen2women
 CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

CCFwomenzwomenwinistry

B1G MINISTRY SINGLES B1G MINISTRY IS ON BREAK AND WILL RESUME ON FEBRUARY 16!

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NXTGEN KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLI

MERRY AND BRIGHT: LET THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

LIGHT THE NEW YEAR Sundays, 9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM G/F North Wing

CCfnxtgen for ages 4-12

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He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who <u>keeps</u> <u>His covenant and His lovingkindness</u> to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments – Deuteronomy 7:9

God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23

God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8

l am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6

God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

SERVICES AT THE CCF CENTER

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE 5:00 PM

(ccf)

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 ONLINE LIVESTREAMS

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God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:11-13