



## A CHRIST-CENTRED CHRISTMAS

Rejoice: A Saviour  
Has Been Born To Us!

The annual Christmas season is here again. Although Christians celebrate Christmas with joy for the reasons they know – with the advent of the Messiah (Isa 6:3, Lk 2:13, Rev 5:11) guaranteeing the eternal destiny of universal harmony in heaven for those who believe – it is never easy to communicate the true meaning of Christmas to a world that is drowned by the holiday revelry around rampant commercialised versions that are anything but a celebration of Christ's birth.

Who is Jesus Christ anyway? Is he just another person in history? What has he got to do with me?

Jesus is God manifest in the flesh. He is the *logos* in the beginning, eternal and the Creator of all things (Jn 1:1-5); and Creation reveals the Creator. (Ps 19:1-6, Rom 1:19-20)

Jesus is not just another person in history Christians talk about on Christmas. Nature's beauties and the wonders in life are often taken for granted instead of driving our inspiration to meditate on their origins.

The following quotations (attributed to James Irwin, the pilot for Apollo 15, the 4<sup>th</sup> lunar landing in 1971)<sup>1</sup>, should give us pause:

- *“The Earth reminded us of a Christmas tree ornament hanging in the blackness of space. As we got farther and farther away it diminished in size. Finally, it shrank to the size of a marble, the most beautiful marble you can imagine. That beautiful, warm, living object looked so fragile, so delicate, that if you touched it with a finger it would crumble and fall apart. Seeing this has to change a man, has to make a man appreciate the creation of God and the love of God.”*
- *“Being on the moon had a profound spiritual impact upon my life. Before I entered space with the Apollo 15 mission in July of 1971, I was a lukewarm Christian, to say the least! I was even a silent Christian, but I feel the Lord sent me to the moon so I could return to the earth and share his Son, Jesus Christ.*

*“The entire space achievement is put in proper perspective when one realizes that God walking on the earth is more important than man walking on the moon. I believe that God walked on the earth 2,000 years ago in the person of Jesus Christ. I have totally yielded my life to the Lord’s service to tell people everywhere about the life-changing message of Christ.”*

- *“I felt the power of God as I’d never felt it before.”*

Do we all have to plan a holiday trip to the moon to feel the power of God and share the life-changing message of Christ?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/James\\_Irwin](https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/James_Irwin)

# IMMANUEL GOD WITH US

Christmas is the fulfilment of a prophecy, *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” (Isa 7:14)*

*“Immanuel”* means “God with us.”  
Indeed, God is with us. While no

one has ever seen God, the one and only Son (Jesus), who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. (Jn 1:18)

Lk 4:18-19 –

- ✚ Jesus has come, to preach the gospel to the poor.
- ✚ Jesus has come, to heal the broken-hearted.
- ✚ Jesus has come, to bring deliverance to the captives
- ✚ Jesus has come, to give sight to the blind.
- ✚ Jesus has come, to set the oppressed free.
- ✚ Jesus has come, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.

Christmas is good news, worthy of great joy because a saviour has been born to us and peace will be to those on whom his favour rests. (Lk 2:10-14) Are we among them?

Do people need Christmas? Do they need love? God’s love is for everyone.

*“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.” (Jn 3:16)*

*John Lee*