

St. Alban's Church 15/12/19

## **Why Celebrate Christmas?**

Isaiah 9: 6 - 8

Some argue that true believers are not supposed to celebrate Christmas, which has a pagan origin. But what these people fail to see is the reason why true believers celebrate Christmas. They are concerned only with the "when" Jesus was born and the "how" Christmas was celebrated by non-believers. Therefore, true believers are supposed to let the unbelieving world see the right way of celebrating the birth of the Saviour. We can never tell them the truth by abstaining ourselves from the celebration.

1. Christmas is all about God sending his Son to earth. It was not man's idea; it was God's idea. Christmas isn't man's initiative, but God's initiative.

It was and is the time when God the Father made the greatest sacrifice of giving up his beloved Son to save us from sin. Paul, rightly said that in Christ we receive the "unspeakable gift of God."

2. Embrace all in love.

This world is filled with people who feel lonely, empty, unloved, hopeless, broken, and tired. It's possible to be lonely amid a crowd. We feel lonely inside when sin had estranged us from the presence of God. The Father sent His Son to fill our heart with His love. He is desirously passionate to fill the emptiness of our heart.

It's about the great love of God for us. It's not about the presents we receive, the foods we partake, the parties, or the celebrations. Those are just props made by us. Christmas is God sending His Son to embrace us with His love through Him."

3. Encourage one other in peace

Normal people do have fears, concerns, apprehensions, and worries. People are afraid of the unknown, the unexpected, and the uncontrollable.

The Saviour is here, not just in the world, but in our heart as well. And there is perfect peace because his presence means salvation, freedom, protection, and provision.

#### 4. Enrich each other in joy

The world is full of darkness, sin, burdens, uncertainties, and discontentment. People are unhappy, lonely, and unsatisfied. While in heaven there is light, righteousness, and perfect joy. The Saviour came to bring what heaven has. Christmas tells us that God wants us to experience heaven while we're here on earth. He wants to enrich our lives with his joy, his light, and his righteousness. So, He came in the person of his son, the Lord says, "I have come that they may have life, and have it in abundance" (Jn.10: 10).

#### 5. Fulfilment of scripture

Christmas accomplishes prophecy of a saviour who will rule as sovereign, away from the selfish commercial aspect that has taken hold over the world. It's not about those commercials geared towards promoting sales, or how much gifts I received, but rather the LOVE behind the giving and sharing. We must seek to celebrate Christmas for what it signifies centred on God, not its commercial value and overindulgence. Thus, Christmas gives us an opportunity to contribute in the furtherance of God's kingdom, here on earth, by exercising all that in and with the God.

Amen.

*Revd Tim Ndegwa*