**Celebrate Christmas (Graphic)**

**The Gift of Christmas**

(Matthew 1:18-23)

“This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name **Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins**.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel” (which means “God with us).”**

1. Jesus the **Gift**

(John 3:16)

“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.”

The greatest gifts express the **worth of the recipient** more than **the value of the gift**.

(Matthew 1:21)

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins**.”

(Romans 6:23)

“For the **wages of sin is death**, but the **gift of God is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1. Jesus the **Seed**

(John 12:24)

“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. **But if it dies, it produces many seeds**.”

(1 Timothy 1:15)

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**—of whom I am the worst.”

From a crib to a cross, Jesus was **born to die**.

1. Jesus the **Resurrected**

(John 11:25)

“…I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

The real gift of Christmas is **new life** in Christ.

All for **you**.