

# Truth and Tradition!



#2905 1220 20A Advent  
**VIRTUAL**

*Truth* and *tradition* are often blended during the holidays, but we can focus *more* on *Tradition* and ignore principles of *Truth*—divine truths concerning our *interactions* with, and our *attitudes* toward family members, friends, and fellow believers. *Truth* comes first—*Tradition* always second.

Christmas proceeds from the *heart*; it is where our trust on *God* starts—fully depending on Him to enable us to have a Christ-like attitude toward everyone. God in Person visited our world and showed us how His *Truth* is lived. John 1:14 “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*”

The Christmas season reminds us that we *can* have the presence of God in our life—that is an on-going *tradition*. When we make the decision to *believe*, God gives us the gift of His *Spirit*—Who enlightens us to understand divine principles of trust on divine power. John 16:13 “*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.*”

God wants us to *know*; to *understand*; and to *live* within the guidelines of His *Truth*—being *kind* and *considerate* during family gatherings; showing *respect*, *love*, *patience*, and *forgiveness*

toward everyone—concerning everything. Those we *love*—make sure they *know* it!

Tradition tells us that Jesus was born in a manger in very humble surroundings. Only a few in Bethlehem took the time to visit him when He was born—even though it was an event of *immense* importance—and never to be repeated. Only Jesus, as God in “*flesh appearing*,” can *forgive* our sins, *change* our hearts, and get us *ready* for Heaven—only God!

*Tradition* recites Matthew 1:21 “*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*”

God wants to give *us* what any loving father would give his *children*. When the Prodigal Son decided to return from a life of sin, his father could then do things for him—likewise, when *we* choose to give our life back to God, He is able to do things for *us*—healing without drugs; food without government checks; protection without insurance coverage; and eternal life by faith in His Atonement.

*Truth* is in the *name* Jesus—*Jehovah* will *save*—because it is a testimony of God's *love* for us even before we showed *any* love for Him. Romans 5:8 “*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”

*Tradition* recites a verse—but *Truth* lives by it. The name *Jesus* is of great significance—Acts 4:12 “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*” To believe in His *Name*, is to trust on His *power*. *Tradition* announces Matthew 1:21 “*And she shall*

*bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS.*”

Only by faithfully trusting on the Atonement sacrifice Jesus made for us—can our sins be *forgiven*; our heart be *changed*; and our life be *re-directed* toward Heaven. *Truth* tells us that Jesus—as God—came to deliver us from sin, self, and Satan. God has promised to heal us when oppressed of the devil, if we will *confess* our sins, *believe* on His power, and *reject* the plans of the world.

God has promised to *guide* our spiritual path to Heaven, if we will *trust* Him in faith to do that. And He promises to save us from the lake of fire by His grace alone through our faith in His Son alone, if we will *believe* Him and *act* on His Word. John 11:25 Jesus said “*I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*”

All good *gifts* in this life and throughout all *seasons* are from God. Every good gift *from* Him is appropriated by steadfast faith *in* Him. God is doing everything possible to *give* these gifts to those who will believe Him, but the world in general *rejects* them by refusing to *trust* Him in faith.

*Tradition* has many singing *peace* and *good will* during this season, but all too often it is over and soon forgotten. The true *meaning* of Christmas is to truly have *Christ* in our heart every moment of every day and in all seasons. We give *evidence* of *good will* in our heart by showing love, kindness, and consideration to all people—not only at Christmas but all through the New Year.

*Tradition* has Christmas cards showing a scene of the angels announcing the birth of the Messiah, but *Truth* tells us that Jesus came to this earth for a very specific reason—to Matthew 1:21 “*Save his people from their sins*”—by *changing* their attitude; *delivering* them from oppression; *providing* financial needs, and *protecting* those who trust Him from harm, injury, or loss.

Jesus would surely approve of our recognizing His birth and knowing why He came to earth, but He would *not* want us to commercialize the holiday as the world does, and would *not* approve of our accumulating more and more things.

Christmas is when the world focuses on the Messiah—Emmanuel, God with us—as the Lord Jesus who alone can *change* lives forever, if we are willing to *believe* that Jesus *is* who He *says* He is—God in flesh who came to pay the debt for all the sins of all people in the world.

*Tradition* recites the verse, but *Truth* understands the mission of the Messiah; Isaiah 9:6 “*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*”

The child who would be born would be a *Savior* for all people from all nations—but any one of those nations must make a *choice*—a choice to *accept* Him as Lord, and to allow Him to *convert* their heart from *rebellion* and *resistance*; to *submission* and *acceptance*—willingly placing their *faith* and *trust* on His atoning sacrifice He made for them.

“*Unto us a child is born*” tells us that He began life as an infant, and He met with temptations like we all do. Hebrews 4:15 “*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*”

Jesus suffered unspeakable pain when He was crucified on the cross to *pay* for the sins we committed. God was manifested to conquer Satan and sin—and now God gives spiritual *light* to those in spiritual *darkness*—if they will *believe* and *trust* Him every day for spiritual light.

*Tradition* places Bible verses on a Christmas card, but we must also accept the *Truth* it proclaims; Zechariah 14:9 “*And the LORD shall be king*

*over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*” He must be the *one Lord* and the *only King* of our life—and of our attitudes and our decisions.

Luke 17:21 “*The kingdom of God is within you,*” means the Spirit of Christ is within our heart to inspire faith in us to depend on His sacrifice of Atonement for everything—healing without medicine, supplies without welfare, protection without insurance, justice without lawyers, and for every other gift.

*Tradition* calls Him *Jesus*, but *Truth* calls Him *Mighty God*—which He confirmed by telling Philip John 14:9 “*He who has seen Me has seen the Father.*” The apostle *knew* that Truth Colossians 2:9 “*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*”

It is a Tradition to give gifts to those we love; but God gave us His Son who showed us His *Truth*—a Truth we are to *believe* and put into *practice* every day. John 15:12 “*This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*” Jesus went on: “*For all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.*”

The Messiah’s *arrival* was a proclamation of *peace* and *truth*; Luke 2:14 “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*” Living His *Truth* includes having *divine peace*, *physical healing*, His *protection*, *provisions*, and *justice*, if we will *confess* our sins to Him.

God’s favor rests on those who love Him with all of their heart, and are committed to trust Him for all things in life. God promises His kingdom if we will *repent* of sins, *forsake* wrong attitudes, *accept* His Son as Lord of our life, and will place our *faith* in His Atonement work at Calvary.

John 3:36 “*He who is believing in the Son, hath life [everlasting]; and he who is not believing the Son, shall not see life, but the wrath of God doth remain upon him.*” *Tradition* says *Jesus is Lord*; but *Truth* actively trusts in the Atonement sacrifice He made for us—and *enduring in the faith* by the power of God. James 1:12 “*Happy the man who doth endure temptation, because, becoming approved, he shall receive the crown of the life, which the Lord did promise to those loving Him.*” Those loving *Him* are those loving the *people* right next to them.

*Tradition* has some people being kind, thoughtful, and considerate for one holiday; but *Truth* says that *every* day is the time to be *kindhearted* toward all people, and a time to make someone feel *wanted*, *needed*, and *loved*. God’s *Truth* means giving and wanting nothing in return—because Acts 20:35 “*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*”

He who created the *universe* and *world* we live on, is here today in the presence of His Spirit—ready to do great things for those willing to trust Him in faith. Far too many never give God anything to do, or they limit His power through unbelief—nevertheless, He is present on earth to do marvelous things for those who *ask* and *believe* that He will.

Hebrews 13:5 “*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*” Anything we could need—spiritually, physically, or materially is available from God—by faith in Christ. Our responsibility is to *ask* and *believe* He will provide them. John 14:13 “*Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son*”—a *Truth* that stands *forever!*

