



WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT

by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

Billy Jones was trembling with excitement as he helped his mother and sister wrap a few Christmas presents. "I can't wait to see what I get this year!" he exclaimed.

"There is nothing wrong with wanting or getting presents, Billy, but I believe there is something even better," replied Mrs. Jones.

"What could be more fun than getting presents?" Billy asked.

"You and Mary might have a hard time believing this, but I think it's better to give than to get."

"Don't you like getting presents, Mom?" asked Mary.

"Yes, and your father also enjoys getting presents. However, we don't focus on how nice or how many presents we get. Our joy and blessings come from watching you open the gifts that we give you. The apostle Paul reminds us in the book of Acts that Jesus said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:35). Our giving is just one way to show our love for you. It makes us happy to give but is that all Christmas is really about?"

"No, it's about the birth of Jesus," Mary replied.

"That's true, Mary, but to truly understand Christmas and why it was

necessary, we need to look clear back to the time of Creation. God gave a perfect place in the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve to live, but they disobeyed God and ate the fruit from the tree of good and evil. Because of this, sin and death entered the world (Romans 5:12).

There could no longer be a close personal relationship between God and

people. Because everyone alive today came from Adam and Eve, it means that all of mankind has sin in their hearts (Romans 3:23). However, God's very nature is Holy. He cannot look upon sin and must punish those who sin (Romans 6:23) by eternal death (separation from God). Man has tried all kinds of ways to be reunited to God. Many people think that if they are good enough, go to church, get baptized, or do good deeds it will take away their sin. Now, all these efforts are good to do, but the Bible is very clear that there is nothing we can do on our own to get sin out of our life (Titus 3:5, James 2:10, Ephesians 2:8-10). The awful price that we must pay for our sin is being separated from God forever. Without God's help we are lost."

With tears in his eyes, Billy sobbed, "I don't want to sin, but my heart kicks and pinches me and makes me do naughty things! I can't help it!"

Hugging Billy, Mrs. Jones continued, "And God knows that, Billy. God showed

us how much He loves us by sending His Son Jesus Christ to die on the Cross for our sins. God allowed Jesus to be the payment for our sin. Jesus paid the price that we could never pay. When Jesus rose from the grave, death and sin were defeated. Jesus is God's gift to us. He is the

only way to eternal life with God. To receive this gift, you must realize that you are a sinner and that you need Jesus to pay for your sins. By doing this you admit that God has the right to say what is good and what is evil, and that you need to live God's way - to do good rather than bad."

"Now I understand why Christmas was necessary," Mary exclaimed, "Because we needed a Savior!"

Hugging both of her children, Mrs. Jones replied, "As Christians, we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ - the greatest gift that man has ever received."



