

Knowing Jesus: Longing for Christmas

May Jesus' Coming Point Us to Good News of Help and Rescue

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I look forward to Christmas! Like the season, the memories, the traditions, the family time, slowing down to share life--that is really life--with family and friends. While many join me in anticipating Christmas, other find the Christmas season full of anxiety and longing.

Longings may reflect memories of special times past, now gone. Longings may reflect hope for the future. Sometimes, longings reflect the inadequacies of the present. In late summer, we long for cooler weather. In winter, we long for spring. Life is imperfect; human longings reflect that imperfection. Longing reflects a desire for change—change that comes too slowly. Christmas is coming—perhaps this will be the year that hope happens and resolutions renew life. Perhaps reflecting on Jesus' coming to this world will clarify life.

The truth is that what many are longing for is much greater than the Christmas story. How can the story of Jesus guide our lives so that we experience what it means to live a spiritual life in a fleshly body. We want to live above this world and its busyness. We want the Good News to overwhelm us with goodness everyday, enabling us to entrust our lives completely to Jesus. We long to know help and rescue, reconstructing our lives, learning what it means to live lives renewed by the divine nature.

The question is, how? May I suggest a first step? Get to know Jesus! "Jesus, let us come to know you, let us see you face to face...." Knowing Jesus implies personal relationship. Knowing Jesus is more than grasping truth. Knowing Jesus is power for living, life above the fray, life focused on daily grace and goodness.

When Jesus came preaching the gospel of the kingdom, his message was believe and repent. We struggle to grasp fully such traditional religious talk. A simple summary: I live out kingdom belief and repentance when I learn to abandon myself, entrusting myself totally to him.

My pursuit of Jesus continues!

Will you join me on the journey at this Christmas season as we think together about what really occurred at the manger, and why it matters? As 2025 begins, spend another dozen weeks with me and we will marvel at what occurred in Jesus' death and resurrection!

I invite you to join me on this journey!