



2023 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

THE BENEFITS OF CHRISTMAS

Text: Hebrews 12:13-14

Christmas is a widely celebrated season that brings joy and happiness to people around the world. Beyond the religious and cultural significance, Christmas offers numerous benefits that contribute to our overall well-being.

A. Salvation

Through Christmas, souls are won each year

Christmas puts a singular message on the forefront of the mind – the birth of Jesus Christ – the Saviour who came to die to save mankind. This message is depicted in the nativity, carols, Christmas-themed movies, nine lessons, etc. Church seizes Christmas as an opportunity to speak louder about Jesus. On that day, it appears that both the world and Christians have agreed to preach about Christ, because aside from Christian institutions, even social media, secular organizations, Radio and TV stations, etc. make Christ known through carols, gift-giving, charity work, etc.

A homeless person who received love and donations opens his heart wide in appreciation to Christ. An unbeliever who watched the nativity on TV begins to ponder over it deeper than he had ever done. Through the carols, the event of Jesus' miraculous birth is told to every listener. And some parents used the opportunity to teach their children about Jesus. Every year during Christmas, for the first time, the gospel begins to make sense to somebody and the Spirit of God leads him or her to appreciate it and accept Jesus for salvation.

Also, the very act of sharing the love of God with others such as orphans, the sick in the hospital, the aged in aged homes, etc. makes these beneficiaries open their hearts up to Jesus, in whose name all these good deeds are done.

Every year, souls are won during the Christmas festivities – this may happen quietly at home, at Christmas Gospel concerts, at Christmas conventions and crusades, or at Christmas-based programs.

B. Family Reunion

Christmas fosters family reunions and homecoming

When Jesus was about to be born, a decree issued by Caesar Augustus compelled all individuals in Israel to return to their respective hometowns for a census. As stated in Luke 2:1-4, Mary and Joseph, the parents of Jesus, journeyed to Bethlehem, Joseph's ancestral hometown. It was in Bethlehem that Jesus was brought into the world. This tradition of returning to one's home or hometown has since become an integral part of the commemoration of Jesus' birth.

The Christmas atmosphere is effective in drawing people homeward and many individuals endeavour to reach their families, homes, or hometowns to celebrate Christmas, no matter where they are. And once they reach home, they reunite with parents, children, spouses, friends, and loved ones.



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
JERICHO, IBADAN.

A Service of
CHRISTMAS
CAROLS
& NINE LESSONS

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 2023

TIME: 4:30PM