



The following are two sample Gospel presentations centered around Christmas. Feel free to use these in any of your Christmas correspondence with your lost loved ones this holiday season!

### **The Greatest Christmas Gift Ever Given**

Christmas is the time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh. But what was God doing by becoming a baby? Did He just come to hang out with us? Was it the first Christmas family visit? Not exactly.

One of the most popular Christmas carols is "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". Have you ever thought of what the song is really about? Here are the opening lyrics: "Hark the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.'" "God and sinners reconciled." This, in a nutshell, is the message of Christmas. But what in the world does it mean?

Well, the truth is that from the beginning of time mankind has been sinning against the God who created us. Sin is a term used for disobedience and faithlessness. Practically, you could say that when God makes a rule and we break it that this is sin, but sin is also anything we do that isn't based in faith in Him. Even if we take an honest look at something as simple as the Ten Commandments, we see that we've all lied and stolen and used God's Name in vain. That's why the Bible says that all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. I have...and you have too.

God takes sin very seriously, and from the beginning He's declared that it causes death, and that there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. Our sins cause us to die, physically and spiritually. Because of our sin and really our love of sin, people are separated from God. So God had to come up with a way that He could remain honest and just but somehow still save people from the eternal consequences of their sins.

Someone who *did not* deserve to die had to die in place of all those who *do* deserve to die. Since all men have sinned, then there's none of us who could pay the price. So to solve the entire problem God Himself came to earth in flesh and blood born miraculously of a virgin girl because He alone could be sinless and then die in our place. It's been said figuratively that Jesus was born in the shadow of the cross. This sinless baby Jesus grew up to become a sinless man, Jesus Christ, who willingly gave His life at Easter to die in our place. He then rose from the grave so that those who believe in Him would be saved. That's how God and sinners can be reconciled for all eternity...and that is truly something to sing about!

Although there have been great Christmas gifts presented throughout the ages, the greatest gift ever given was given by God Himself. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). It is my prayer that you will repent of your sin and receive God's greatest gift this Christmas season: eternal life through the Christ of Christmas, Jesus Christ.

### **The True Meaning of Christmas**

The true meaning of Christmas has little to do with toys, reindeer, Santa, or the North Pole. It is a celebration of how God destroyed death in the person of Jesus Christ.

How could a baby in a manger have anything to do with death being conquered? Death came into the world because of sin. How can you know if you have sinned against God? Sin is transgression of God's Law, so ask yourself if you've broken any of the Ten Commandments. Have you ever lied – even once? Have you ever stolen anything? Have you ever used God's Name in vain? If you have failed to live up to all of the commandments, you have sinned against God and are not good enough to enter heaven. In fact, Jesus said, "No one is good, but God alone." The wages of sin is death and hell. That is why you need a Saviour!

But merely asking for forgiveness is not enough. The law demands that justice be satisfied with a punishment or payment. It requires the blood of a perfect, sinless man. That's why Jesus came...to take your punishment upon Himself so that you could be forgiven and be saved into eternity forever with Him in heaven. After He was crucified at Easter, God raised Jesus from the dead, demonstrating His power over death. If you believe this good news, repent of your sin, and put your faith in Jesus Christ, you will be saved from God's wrath when you face Him upon death. Then you will know the true meaning of Christmas!