

What do we mean when we say, “*Merry Christmas*”?

Luke 2:8-14

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”¹

“*Merry Christmas*” is a message of Joy (8-10)²

Christmas is a time for *Celebration*. Good news brings great joy!

We celebrate that God loves us (John 3:16)

We celebrate that God is with us (Matthew 1:23)

“*Merry Christmas*” is a message of Hope (11-12)

Christmas brings us *Salvation*. Because our Savior delivers us from our past, we can have hope for the future.

Jesus saves us from our sin (Matthew 1:21)

Jesus saves us completely (Hebrews 7:24-25)

“*Merry Christmas*” is a message of Peace (13-14)

Christmas makes *Reconciliation* possible. While heaven praises, humans enjoy peace.

We can enjoy peace *with God* (spiritual) (Romans 5:1)

We can enjoy the peace *of God* (emotional) (Philippians 4:6-7)

We can experience peace *with others* (relational) (John 13:34-35)

¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. Wheaton : Standard Bible Society, 2001.

² The outline is adapted from *The purpose of Christmas*, by Rick Warren, New York, NY: Howard Books, 2008.