

Christmas *joy* – but more!

The Christmas message is truly joyous – “good news of great joy, that will be for all the people” Luke 2.10.

But, **first**, this joy only arises because Christ willingly *humbled* himself!

There he was amid heaven's splendour, sitting at the right hand of the Father, the Almighty God. But Jesus left it all to become a helpless human infant, born – not in a palace – but in poverty.

Second, though he was sinless Son of God, he took the awful stigma of our sin! He “humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” Philippians 2.8. What amazing humility.

Third, since he died to take the penalty for human sin, have we accepted this – the most wonderful of all Christmas gifts?

1) Amid the joy and delight and celebration of the Christmas message, let's gratefully acknowledge *what it cost* Jesus to be our great Saviour.

2) And let's rejoice at *how far* the Saviour's gift extends – it's for the whole world! John 3.16.

3) May we, therefore, with the apostle Paul, cry out in gratitude, “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” 2 Corinthians 9.15.

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“Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.” –1 Peter 3.18 (NIV)

Ken Packer