

# Christmas = Hope

## Christmas At The Bayou

### December 12, 2021

**How can we celebrate Christmas when there is so much pain in the world?  
Because there is so much pain in the world is why we have Christmas.**

**Christmas reminds us that God showed up!**

*<sup>22</sup>All of this (Jesus being born) occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through His prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call Him **Immanuel**, which means '**God is with us.**'" Matthew 1:22-23 (NLT)*

**God showed up because we are hopeless apart from Him.**

*"When we were **utterly helpless** ..." Romans 5:6 (NLT)*

*"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23 (NLT)*

*"... when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death." James 1:15 (NLT)*

*"When we were **utterly helpless**, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners."  
Romans 5:6 (NLT)*

**God showed up because of His unstoppable love.**

*"God showed how much He loved us by **sending His one and only Son** into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him." 1 John 4:9-10 (NLT)*

**Christmas reminds us that God turns messes into miracles.**

*"<sup>4</sup>But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. <sup>5</sup>God sent Him to **buy freedom for us** who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children." Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT)*

**Would you trust His plan and timing?**

*"Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true ...'" Luke 1:38 (NLT)*

**John Ortberg: There will be great pain, and there will be great joy. In the end, joy wins. So if joy has not yet won, it is not yet the end.**

*"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." Romans 8:28 (NLT)*