

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!

*²²All of this (Jesus being born) occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through His prophet: ²³"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.

*"⁴But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵God 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)