

## A Christmas List for You!

Makin' a list, checkin' it twice...No, not Santa, me!

My mother used "to-do" lists when an event was coming. A habit I adopted many (many) years ago. If we were going to Ohio to visit family, there would be a list of stuff to pack in the suitcases, stuff for the car trip, stuff to do before the trip and if it wasn't on the list, it often got missed. There is still family in Ohio, and I make trips there with the use of lists. Though it's been 24 Christmases without mom, her lists remain ingrained in my persona.

There are also shopping lists, Christmas card lists, "to-do" lists for projects at home and work. In summer, lists for camping appear. Some of are just little note reminders. Some are full notebook page length. There are those who are list makers and those who are not. Personally, if I don't write it down, I forget. (Getting more so as the years go by.)

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We celebrate His humble birth in a place where animals lived. Laid in a manger. Wrapped in swaddling clothes. There are many depictions of this scene by numerous artists and sculptors. Most are beautifully rendered. However, in my opinion, it was probably a dirty, smelly place (let's face it, there were animals living there). Joseph and Mary had travelled for days and I am sure they were a little less than quaffed. The shepherds came...smelling of sheep no doubt. But Jesus was born none the less. The Messiah, who's coming was foretold in, what is now, the old testament. The list of references to Jesus in the old testament goes on and on. (You can read more [HERE](#).) These are but three such references...

*And the Lord said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. Deuteronomy 18:17-18*

*Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14*

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

So, why does any of this matter? Well, Christmas celebrates the birth of our Lord and Savior. However, think about this. There would be no Christmas if there were no Christians. Huh? Yup. It is those of us who believe and accept Jesus as our savior who began the celebration of his birth several millennia ago. And... as much as we celebrate His birth, it is His death which saves us.

Believe it or not, there is a list for salvation. Do you know what's on it? Two things!

1. Confess
2. Believe!

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Romans 10:9*

*And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:11*

Confess\* to God that you are a sinner and Believe that Jesus was born to die for you. Not just you, but everyone. We ALL have sinned ([Romans 3:23](#)). We are all redeemable. ([Titus 2:11](#))

Not ready to tackle that list? It's OK, it's never too late. As long as there is breath in your body, this two-item list is waiting for you. After all He is eternal, everlasting, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1:8*

When you do make the decision to complete the two items on Jesus' list, remember, nothing can take you from His list; the Lamb's Book of Life

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. John 10:27-29*

*And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. Revelation 21:27*

As this Christmas Season comes and goes with your list items checked off, don't forget to tuck Jesus' list in your heart and keep it there year-round.

Blessings to you at Christmas and for a wonderful New Year!



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\*(In this case confess means to admit or proclaim.)