

50 Bible Verses Everybody Should Know By Heart

Getting a Handle on the Holidays

After watching many movies and television shows on “the meaning of Christmas,” you get the impression that Christmas is a “fill in the blank” holiday that has something other to do with peace, presents, and warm, fuzzy feelings of sentimental good cheer and good will towards men – for about a day! Still, the question is: “What is Christmas, really, and is there a Bible Verse I can memorize that can help me get a handle on this Holiday and put what I celebrate into perspective?” There is!

Here’s the Verse: It’s *MATTHEW 1:21*, “. . . and you shall call His Name *JESUS*, for He will save *HIS PEOPLE* from their sins . . . “

**** Here’s the equation: CHRISTMAS = INCARNATION = SALVATION. ****

In the incarnation, the 2nd Member of the Trinity, Jesus, added to His DIVINE nature a HUMAN nature and came to earth as “Immanuel,” which means “God with us”.

1. Salvation is about an ANNOUNCEMENT, NOT about ADVICE.

Most religions are about what WE must do to get right with God; and the religious rituals we go through to manipulate God to do what we want Him to do. Christianity, in stark contrast to other religions, is about what GOD has done, how HE makes the first move, and HE does what we cannot do.

2. Salvation is about GOD’S work, NOT about OUR work.

“Jesus” means “The LORD brings salvation”. It’s His title, and HE is the one who brings salvation. Anytime we add human merit to the equation, we’ve gotten away from Biblical Christianity.

3. Salvation is about CERTAINTY, NOT about CONTINGENCY.

Our lives are a lot about “IF . . . then . . . “ We make plans, but they can be thwarted. But this verse assures us that salvation is NOT contingent! Jesus WILL save His people from their sins, not just make salvation possible.

4. Salvation is about DELIVERANCE *from* something, NOT INDIFFERENCE *to* something.

It’s not just fire insurance from hell or punching a ticket to heaven. It’s about deliverance from the biggest problem we have: SIN. In our sin, we put ourselves 1st, determine for ourselves what’s right and wrong, and cross boundaries God’s Law has set. The consequences are devastating for our internal well-being, our relational well-being, and our ecological well-being. It’s something we should want to be delivered from!

It’s from:

→ **The P**ENALTY of sin. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

→ **The P**OWER of sin. So that sin would become less attractive to us as Christ became more beautiful to us. (Romans 6:12)

→ **The P**RESENCE of sin. In the New Heavens and the New Earth, where only righteousness will be at home. (Jude 24-25)