

Title: Glory To God In The Highest

Chud

Text : Luke 2:1-20

Take your Bibles and turn to Luke chapter 2. On this christmas ^{day} I would like to look at Lukes account of the Birth of Christ.

Glory to God in the highest. Boy, that is shouting ground. ~~I have seen that on a lot of Christmas cards.~~

(Read Luke 2:1-20)

Joint with me in a moment of Prayer

What a story before us! In fact, I believe this story gives us the circumstances that God used to fulfill His Word. What wonderful circumstances are these and what strange ones. That God would bring together as He says so beautifully in Galations 4:4 "that in the fulness of time God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the law."

You know, I look at this text ^{in Luke} and I see the fulness of time. I see for the first time in humane history, more land, more people conqueored under one banner. The Roman empire as big as it was provided the setting for the birth of the saviour.

I see the fulness of time when I realize that for the first time we have all the earth ^{as one} one common language. The Romans insisted on Koine Greek, common Greek. And it was in that language that the N.T. was originally ^{written} written. All the people could hear the Gospel of Christ and understand.

I think of the Roman roads that brought transportation to a new highth. As her communiatation with all her outpost was carried over a tremendous systems of roads. And the news of the birth of Christ could travel throughout the empire.

I Thought of all the excitement that this passage has. And I just cann't help ^{but} say that this is God, friends, that is doing this. God is bringing history to a great ^{the} climax with the birth of His Son, Jesus, into the world. God becoming flesh and dwelling among us. What a story it is.

And we sheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from The Father, full of grace and truth

I would just like to share ^{some} three circumstances with you that maybe you have not taken the time to ^{look at} study in detail. And I pray that this will cause your hearts to rejoice. To rejoice when you know that God has brought together some amazing circumstance simply to fulfill His Word.

The Lord ^{said} says through the prophet Micah in Micah chapter 5 verse 2: "But as for you, Bethlehem, too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you one will go forth for me to be ruler in Israel."

Approximately four hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the Prophet Micah said, that ^{Messiah} Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. And God uses the following circumstances to bring that to pass.

(1) ~~Number one~~ ^{Number one}, a pagan ruler. Aren't you glad that God is in charge of pagan rulers? The prophet Daniel says, that it is God who sets up kingdoms and it is God who takes them down. He is running the show. ~~He sat on his throne in the heaven and He is ruling.~~ No matter what you and I think about it. No matter how wicked and how bad the mess that we see, God is still in control. And God certainly work this one.

and You will forgive me if for a moment ~~and~~ dip a little bit into my past. History was a favorite subject of mine.

I love Roman history. And I love what it tells and reveals about the truth of God's Word.

It was in 30 B.C. that Rome changed from a republic to an empire. Thus bringing about the tremendous circumstances that were there at the birth of Jesus. But in 30 B.C. the empire came. And coming to the throne in 30 B.C. was a man by the name of ~~Augustus~~ Augustus. His real name was Octavian. Maybe you have read the stories of Caesar, Mark Anthony, Cleopatra, and Octavian. If you voted for the man least likely to ~~succeed~~ succeed you would choose Octavian.

Julius Caesar was the great conqueror of the Gauls. He was assassinated by Members of the Roman senate.

Mark Anthony was ^{so} cunning manipulator. Always manipulating people. But over in the corner is the ~~femine~~ Octavian. A person no one thinks will amount to very much. But Octavian walks off with it all.

And he becomes Augustus: Augustus Caesar. And he is going to get back at them all. And really show them what He can do.

So, he announces to the world something that I also find to be very significant in this second chapter of Luke. He announces to the world that ^{He} ~~we~~ ^{is} ~~are~~ going to establish PEACE ON EARTH. And so he has the great/ [REDACTED] PAX-WELL-MONA.... [REDACTED] The Roman peace...

How wonderful to hear the angels sing: "Glory to God in the highest, And on Earth what?.....Peace....."

No, Augustus, you did not bring PEACE. But, boy did he tell everybody. And he had his soldiers everywhere to insure the peace.

And into that empire, into that environment and its talk of PEACE was born one who would bring real peace to the human heart.

In 13 B.C. Augustus decided that he was tired of all the religious systems that did not honor THE CAESAR and give him his proper place. And though he wanted to tolerate all the gods of the Roman religion, Augustus Caesar decided that He, himself, should be involved. So, he called himself a title that he got from his good friend Julius Caesar. For Julius Caesar was a member of that ancient order, with all of their deep mystery and secret ceremonies, who had a high priest which came from Babylon. And Julius Caesar took the title: PONTIUS MAXIMUS: SUPREME PONTIS....

Augustus like the sound of it. So, in 13 B.C. he announced that He was the High Priest. And now everyone must say: "CAESAR IS LORD". To insure that this was done He had the Roman Senate pass a law that required all the provisions and cities throughout the empire to burn incense to Caesar. And to say that CAESAR IS LORD...

And as many of you know that became an issue in early Christianity. A christian could not say that CEASAR IS LORD. Because to a christian JESUS WAS LORD. And so the issue became JESUS VS CAESAR. And the early christians would not burn incense to CEASAR AS LORD. Because JESUS WAS LORD. And thus Christianity was viewed as a great threat to the Roman empire.

But into that setting of Augustine as SUPREME PONTIS, Ceasar as Lord, establishing peace over the whole world, a baby is born in a horse stable....

A baby born in an animal manger who is truly the Lord..

You cannot help but see the contrast. With imperial Roman with all its wealth, its gold and silver, its palaces and its mighty armies with the world under its control. You cannot help but see the contrast between that...and the baby in an animal feeding bin who is really Christ the Lord.

What fantastic circumstances that God used. He took a pagan ruler and he set the whole thing up. He made it a great contrast because he was going to show the world who really is LORD.

By the way, Augustus died on August 19, 14 A.D. And in appreciation for all that he had done, the Roman Senate deified him and made him a God and required everybody to worship him.

put
(2) Well, *Augustus also established an empire wide census* there were three particular censuses that this emperor established *for* ~~four~~ three of them. They were separated by 14 years. And ~~for~~ the next 200 years following the death of Augustus the Romans had a census every 14 years. This is the first time that the world had ever really had a census. And this Roman registration becomes the second circumstance that God uses to bring about his purposes.

Think about it? In time pasted, in ancient history, there ~~were~~ ^{was} no census, *That's* enrolling the population of the world. *to take* But, now there is one.

By the way, the one in our chapter in Luke 2 is the second census of Augustus Caesar. He had one before this. This is second census. The third census was taken in 6 A.D.

Let me tell you a little about this story. There are liberal critics of the Bible who say that Luke chapter 2, this story, is proof that you cannot rely upon the truthfulness of the Bible. Let me show you what I mean.

They say that it is impossible to believe that Jesus was born at this particular time, or, that this census was taken at this time.

Turn over to Luke chapter 3 and let me just walk you through this. It is an interesting problem. But to me it is a wonderful one because it shows me the truthfulness of the Word of God.

In Luke chapter 3 verse 1 we read.....(Read Vs 1-2)

You ask, "Why did Luke give us all that information?" Oh, just to make sure that you know that the Bible isn't talking myth and make believe. He put in those people which we can know from Roman history. And we learn some neat things.

For example, Tiberius Caesar is the step-son of Augustine Caesar. But Tiberius Caesar, according to the Bible, reigned for a long time. But in his 15th year we have the ministry of John the Baptist. And John the Baptist is 6 months older than Jesus.

Now, look down at Vs 23..."And when He began His ministry, Jesus himself was about 30 years of age."

Now wait a minute friends. ~~Age~~ Augustus Caesar died in 14 A.D. Tiberius Caesar, his step-son, in his 15th year, that would be 29 A.D., Jesus is 30 years old. You say, SO WHAT?....

Well, Herod the Great died in 4 B.C.. You say, SO WHAT?...

Well, Jesus was born, according to the Bible, before Herod the Great died.

Everybody still with me?.....

So, the question is.. How did Jesus begin his ministry in which there are at least three if not four passovers that are mentioned after the point of Luke 3:23 which means that Jesus has got to be, if he is 30 at that point, he has got to be around 33 or 34 by the time he dies. And backing that up, how do we have Jesus born before 4 B.C. because that is when Herod died.

Herod is the one who killed all the babies, remember? And he killed them all up to 2 years because figuring the time from the wise men, he estimated about 2 years. Which means that probable the census that Luke is talking about took place ~~around~~ around 6 B.C. Herod died around 4 B.C. Jesus born about 5 B.C.....

Now, wait a minute. Now I have him to old? WHAT IS THE ANSWER?... When ~~the~~ the Romans even tell us when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea. That might help. Pontius Pilate began his reign ~~in~~ in 26 A.D. And he was removed from office in 36 A.D. at passover time. He was in Judea for 10 years.

So, you have got to have Jesus death at least after 26 A.D. ..Right?.. Because Pilot was governor, wasn't he? That is what the Bible says.

Well, the problem is answered when you study Roman history. Let me tell you why. Tiberius Caesar was a step-son. But the Roman senate had made Tiberius a co-ruler with ~~Ag~~ Augustus at the end of 11 A.D..

Now, watch this carefully. Luke's account is really correct because it was in the 15th year^s reign of Tiberius which you begin counting at 11 A.D. Which makes Jesus 30 years old around 26 A.D.. Which makes his death around 29 A.D. And that fits what I believe anyway. So, I like it.

You know why? Because the Jews have a passover on Thursday in 29 A.D. And I believe that is when he died.

But, backing it up a little bit. Let's just keep thinking. It is true in Roman history ^{not} at the end of 11 A.D. we have Tiberius ruling. Luke said that in the 13th year of his reign is when John the Baptist starts preaching when Jesus is about 30 years old. So, let's back it up. Herod did die in 4 B.C. We know about that. O.K. what about the ~~en~~ Census? And right here the liberals say that the Bible cannot be correct. No way! WHY? Because Roman history tells us that Quirinius was governor of Syria alright, but not in B.C.. but in 6 A.D.....Listen Carefully...

The Bible says in Vs 2 "this was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria." They say, "wait a minute, the census that we know happened was in 6 A.D. when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So how can you have Jesus born back there in B.C..? It would have to be 6 A.D.. and then all of our dates would be wrong. And His death would be up there around 39 A.D. Which is impossible. So, we know the Bible's accounts are not really correct. So, why trust it. It is just general ideas and its the stories that are important.....Right?.....

WRONG!!!.....Everyone of these facts, I believe, are correct. I believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible. The errorances of the Bible. We may not have had proper translations of it. But in the original autographies, I believe is without error. It is correct. It is reliable. It is completely trustworthy. Nothing wrong with it at all.

In fact, I believe this whole discussion is tremendous testimony to the verbal inspiration of the Bible. Let me tell you why...

The first thing I notice in Vs 2 when it says that Quirinius was governor of Syria, I notice that the normal word for governor is not in that text at all. Now, my English Bible says governor. But the Greek text does not say that at all. It says simply that "he was ruling".

Listen, carefully. The Bible does not say that Quirinius was governor at the time of this census....Was Quirinius a governor at the time of a census?....YES, HE WAS. He was governor of Syria in 6 A.D. when they had a Roman census.

Let's back up 14 years earlier at 7 or 8 B.C. And let's talk about that census. That particular census was the second one that Augustus had. Remember, he had them every 14 years. And in that particular census by the time it got down to Syria and Israel, it was 6 B.C..before they were taking the Census. The decree was given in 8 B.C. But it was two years later before they were able to enroll the people in Israel.

Now, watch this carefully...It is very interesting to be that ^{from} in Roman history a man is ruling as a governor of Syria named Varus. The liberal critics say, "Ah,ha the Bible is wrong. It was Varus not Quirinius. But if you really know your Roman history well, you will know that the same Quirinius who became governor in 6 A.D. was as a young man taken by Varus to be governing all his armies in Syria and Israel. Quirinius, according to Luke, was not the governor, but the Greek text says "He was ruling." And according to Roman history that is exactly what had happened. Quirinius controlled not only all the armies, he directed all the foreign policy. And he took the census.

You see, Luke who lived in that day knew the facts. And what he reports is true and correct. It can be proved through Roman history. Quirinius was ruling or governing in Syria at the time of the census. And it was the first census that Quirinius was involved in. WHAT WOULD THAT MEAN?

It means that Quirinius was involved in a second one. Was he involved in a second one? ABSOLUTELY...In 6 A.D. when he was the governor of Syria.

omit

It is fascinating when you look at the details of the Scripture and you realize the Bible is accurate to the smallest detail. And I say to you that God who is sovereign, all powerful, who is running all history, is taking a pagan ruler and a Roman registration and He is bringing it all together to cause His word to be fulfilled.

Now, I ask you, How are we going to get Joseph and Mary down to Bethlehem so that the prophecy of Micah could be fulfilled? HOW? Well, a Roman registration did that. But, friends, it wasn't just the Roman census, it was a specific requirement within Israel that got them there,. And this shows me, once again, how God is working. Let me explain what I mean.

In all of the cities and provinces of Roman they took a census like we do today. That is: your name and all the facts about you are related to the city where you are now living. It is based on geography. You live on a certain street in a certain city and so forth. That is the way they did it all over the Roman empire. But, the Jews would ^{not} go along with that method. The Jews always went back to their ancestral family home. They traced their lineage to their city of birth. So...we have facts in Roman history which tell us that the Romans made an exception for Israel because they having so much trouble with the Jews. "Let's don't irritate them any further. Let's just do the registration the way they want to do it. Let's just let them return to their place of birth."

Think of this, dear friends, God in his sovereignty in human history, takes a pagan ruler, a Roman registration, and now given a specific requirement of Israel and He got Joseph and Mary going to Bethlehem. You tell me that is quote: "JUST A CIRCUMSTANCE" and I will tell you that you don't know what you are talking about. This is fantastic. That God in his wisdom and knowledge brought all this together. And the Bible simply says that God in the fullness of time brought forth His Son born of a woman.....Fantastic....
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST.....WHY?.....BECAUSE GOD USES CIRCUMSTANCES TO FULFILL HIS WORD...

Now, there is something else that is interesting to me. It was a special relationship between Joseph and Mary that brought them to Bethlehem.

Now Why? Listen, Mary is pregnant. And they are not married. Do you know what would have happened if Joseph had not taken Mary under his protective care? If he would have just stepped aside and left her to Jewish law? They would have stoned her. ^{But} Joseph in his love and kindness and compassion knowing that the angel had spoken to him, takes this pregnant woman to whom he is engaged, knowing all the criticisms and behind the scene gossips, and he goes to Bethlehem. A crowded city overflowing with people. A city ~~where~~ ^{where} he was going to face his entire family. Can you imagine the questions?..."Whose the woman, Joseph?....Well, she is Mary and I am engaged to her.....Isn't she getting fat, Joseph?...."

"Well, you are not going to believe this. But she was conceived by the Holy Spirit."

Oh, sure...boy, that is a good one.....

I mean, have you ever thought about those human elements?...Because the Bible does reveal that that went on.

Think about years later, Jesus is over 30, one day the religious leaders say: "We be not born of fornication?"...

Jesus said, "you do dishonor me."

Hay, listen, the charge of being an illegitimate child continued even when he was in his 30's. They were still accusing him of being illegitimate.

God took all these circumstances and brought them about to fulfill his Word because the prophet Micah long ago said: "the ruler would come out of Bethlehem."

But I think even of the circumstance under which ~~he~~ ^{he} was born in that manger, that feed bin, in Bethlehem. Now, that is not the normal place for a ~~baby~~ ^{King}, right?....Mary wipes him in a cloth and puts him in the animals feed bin. But, I thought to myself again. Contrast the Caesar in Rome in his palace and the Saviour who is truly the King of Kings and Lord of Lords born in a manger.

Away in a manger, No crib for His bed, the Little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head, The stars in the sky Looked down
where he lay, The Little Lord Jesus, Asleep on the hay.

Boy! what a contrast!...

And I thought how that was characteristic of Jesus throughout his life. I thought of Luke 9 when talking about discipleship, and people who couldn't really pay the price, and Jesus said: "Foxes have holes, birds of the air have nest, but the Son of man has no where to lay his head."

He started that way. His whole life was lived that way. He told us what discipleship was all about.

Then I thought of us. Piling up goodies and securities and all of this. The song writer had it coreect when he wrote:

..... This world is not my home I'm just passing through...

Friends Our roots are not here. They are in heaven. Our citizenship is in heaven. From where we look for our Saviour. The Lord Jesus Christ.

Born in a manger. What circumstances that God used.

And frankly the choise of shephreds wouldn't have been the worlds choise. The choose of shephreds to tell the good news. Imagine picking shephreds. Uneducated..they couldn't read nor write....And the lowest of them all... out there with the animals...They lived with the sheep...And I want you to kown that shephreds in those days didn't use "right guard."....They smelled like the sheep...

Now Think about Prut
~~And I thought about that a lot.~~ How our Lord honored those shephreds.

You know, God takes the small things of the world to confuse the mighty. He chooses the foolish things of the world to confuse the wise.

Some of us are too good for our own good. We don't understand where we come from. We are all but clay. God has made us. He formed us out off the dirt of the ground. And to the dust ~~we~~ returns when ~~we~~ dies, physically. And were it not for the provendence ~~of God~~ and grace and forgiveness of God, non of us would ever have a hope and a future in heaven. We would be in Hell forever.... *And that is the Gospel Truth*

The Psalmist knew that when he said "He ~~would take~~ ^{Took} me out of the pit. He took me out off the mirary clay and set my feet upon a rock."

God went to these shephreds, men who lived with the sheep, men who couldn't read nor write and gave them the message of hope.

SOFTLY

Vs 9 says, "The glory of the Lord shone around them"..... *Jan Told*

Now, I don't know the truthfulness of this ~~tradition~~ ^{story}. But there is a manuscript in a musinime in Istanbul that records the Sanhredian, the Jewish high councils' visit to Bethelhem to inquire into the "unusall circumstance of the birth of a possible Messiah". ~~The~~ manuscript in Istanbul deals with that subject. And it is interesting to me that all the citizens of Bethelhem ^{account} ~~to~~ this manuscript, say, that they saw the brillent light. But they had no idea of what was going on. The light, probably ~~filled~~ ^{filling} the heavens around the city of Bethlehem. The glory of the lord. And here these shephreds.. These poor shephreds see this light. And an angel of the Lords appears to them... Will I want to tell you that they recieved one of the most exciting revelations ~~the~~ the world has ever heard. Direct from God they heard the most exciting news. It is fantastic...I love to read it...

Vs 10 says.....(Read Vs 10-12)

~~This~~ revelation, he said, was to all the people. It is good news of a great joy. As a matter of fact, Bible prophecy is involved because he said in "the city of David."

Man, that would ring a bell immidiately. That is Bethlehem. Mich 5:2 Unbelievable....You mean this is it. The Messiah has finally come! In the city of David, a saviour, who is Messiah the Lord!..

Wowww...Friends, Vs 11 is very powerful. A Saviour....Not Augustus... THE LORD!!!! Christ...THE MESSIAH....HE IS HERE....

Can you imigine being a shephred and ~~hearing~~ hearing all of that?

Now, there is one thing I realy like about this whole story. You know, I don't read that when these shephreds received this news that they sat down to ~~talk~~ talk it over...Have you noticed that?

"Hay, guys, let's talk this over. What about this? Is is real?..." Is that what Happened?....

Look at Vs 15....(Read Vs 15).....I like that! "Let's do this right now. And the Bible says in Vs 16 that they came with hast.....~~men~~ they didn't let any grass grow under there feet....Boy, they ran

Now Let ~~me~~ *people* ~~all~~ *at* you a little bit about the tremendous response of heaven.
to this announcement
Vs 13 says (Read Vs 13-14)

Now, in understanding those two verses, notice the three nouns: God... earth....man...And it is saying "to God...glory. To earth....peace. On men..." "good pleasure." *a 'good will' or He is pleased*

And And when you look at it that way, *I hope you* you might get a great thought....

You see, these three nouns: God...Earth...Men...Each have something addressed to them. And it deals with the baby being born. "For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior ~~for~~ *won* who is Christ the Lord."

O.K...now, what do we do towards God?....In the highest...up in the heavens...what is going on there?....GLORY...GLORY....

That is why God made us in the first place. That is why he brought Jesus into the world. That is why He saved sinners. That is why Jesus is coming back. That is why he is going to set up his kingdom on earth.. WHY?... So, that He will receive ~~the~~ glory.

Whether we eat or drink, do all to the glory of God. *IC 10/31*

So, glory and praise and honor and blessing and domine to Him. In the highest places there is glory. *PAX - Well - Roma*

Now, what is on earth?....Now, that the baby is here, on earth PEACE... Peace isn't through the Roman peace or Augustine Caesar. Peace is going to be in that baby, *Jesus* that is the ~~the~~ prince of peace. The promised Messiah of Isaiah 9:6-7...For unto us a child is born, a son is given. And the government will rest on his shoulders. And His name will be called wonderful counselor, Mighty God, eternal Father, Prince of Peace.... On earth what?....Peace....Where?....in the baby.....

Apart from the baby?....NO....Glory to God apart from the baby?....NO.... Peace on earth apart from the baby?....NO.... *But in The baby!*

Then good ~~will~~ pleasure on men....The good ~~will~~ pleasure is the pleasure of God. And the good pleasure is often used in the N.T. in referring to man's salvation and the grace of God being given to him. *It refers to*

the Gospel - The good news

and Example: Several times in Ephesians 1. He has saved us according to the good pleasure of his will towards us.

What this means is this. Through the baby the good pleasure of God^l will achieved in saving men.

In the heavens...glory comes to God because of the baby.

On earth..peace will be established ^{in Man Heart} because the baby is here.

And, third, on individual men will come the good pleasure, ^{will} or, the grace and kindness of God because of the baby. God will give us his grace because that baby was born to die.

oh ~~And~~ I pray you all understand that because it is so important. It is God's love and grace and mercy that is right there in ^{Vs 14} ~~that last phrase of~~ ~~vs 14~~...To God, GLORY..

On earth...PEACE

And to men! The good pleaseure ^{will} of God is now possible. WHY? Because unto us is born this day in the city of David a saviour who is Christ the Lord! Praise God. That is shouting ground. It gets you excited, doesn't it"?....AMEN!.....(Boy you are slow this morrowing!?)

Now, let look at how these shephreds ~~1~~ responded. How they responded in Vs 15 to 20...

(1) One, and I like this. They proved it for themselves. You know, a lot of people hear the Christmas story, a lot of people hear the preaching of Christ. And ~~maybe~~ maybe you are here and you have heard the message of Christmans, put you have never made a personal commitment yourself. Boy, those shephreds are going to prove it to themselves.

Vs 15..."Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened." Let's make sure.

And I ask you. Have you sreached the scripture to see if these things are so? Do you realize that the things we say Sunday after Sunday have eternal consequences for your life? Have you sought the truth? whether these things are so? DO YOU KNOW THE LORD? DO YOU PERSONALLY? DO YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE AND FAITH IN WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST? Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Jesus said, "search the scriptures." I think it is very, very important to see Jesus in this book. Jesus said that all of the law and the Psalms all the prophets are concerning me (Luke 24:44). This book is about Jesus Christ, ^{who is the} the saviour of the world. DO YOU BELIEVE IT? He is the king of kings and the Lord of lords.

(2) ^{Now} ~~And~~ what did the shepherds do? Vs 17 "And when they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this child."

Man, they went out and told the world. They shared the message of christmas. HAVE YOU TOLD SOMEBODY ABOUT THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS? "For today in the city of David there has been born for you a SAVIOUR, who is Christ the Lord."

(3) And third, they praised the Lord for all they had seen and heard. I hope that characterizes your attitude. Vs 20 says "the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them."

And look at what we have told to us in this day. A lot more than the shepherds heard. And we ought to be praising and glorifying God for all that we have seen and heard....AMEN...

Listen, if ~~you~~ ^{you} don't know the Saviour, ^{then receive him.} That is the greatest thing you could do this christmas. Your ~~whole~~ whole christmas would be different. Because you have come to believe in the one who was born to die on a cross for your sins. Who rose again on the third day. And is one day coming back for us.

The Bible ask you to believe in him like a little child does. Jesus said that unless you come like a little child you can never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Oh, I ^{hope you} ~~do you~~ BELIEVE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT JESUS? If you do, you will be saved. ^{and} You will know that you will have everlasting life. ^{and you will know}

^{know the real meaning of christmas because you will know}
Let's close with prayer ^{the "child" of christmas}