



Look beyond the Christmas cookies. Push aside the twinkling lights. Dig deep, past mounds of wrapping paper. There, hidden underneath the Christmas “stuff”, TV specials, and travel plans – and there you will find it!

The HEART of Christmas

But what is it? How have your memories and experiences shaped your Christmas seasons? What is Christmas to you? What is it culturally? What is it in your family traditions? What is it biblically? Can you put your finger on one specific that would cover it all? What do you think that might be?

THE CHRISTMAS STORY – Matthew 1:18-25

Make a notation as to how God expresses the “heart of Christmas” in three statements:

- God’s _____ “she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit”
- God’s _____ “because he will save his people from their sins”
- God is _____ “call him Immanuel which means ‘God with us’”

Has Christmas become such a part of our culture that we have misplaced the true heart of Christmas – that God came in the flesh to not only save us but to call us to a lifestyle that would reflect Jesus and the Holy Spirit and have continued impact on our world?

We can conclude that the true “heart” of Christmas is the _____! *John 3:16; 1 John 4:16, 19*

SHALL WE BE NAUGHTY OR NICE? OR _____?

Christians reject the “naughty” but sometimes settle for the “nice” so reflect the heart of Christmas by:

- Loving God and others with your _____. *1 John 3:16-18*
- Putting your life _____. *Luke 9:23*
- Going the _____. *Matthew 5:38-42*

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH THE HOLLY, JOLLY AND THE _____!

The follower of Christ experiences all the joy that comes from God’s love but balances that with a dedication to follow him with a life of righteous qualities that have influence and impact on others. *Matthew 5:11-16; Acts 4:13*

*“This is how God **showed His love** among us: He **sent his one and only Son** into the world that we might **live through him**.”*

1 John 4:9