



Greetings,

What joy to always end the year at the time when we first know Christ – in the flesh.

From Abraham to Ruth to David and down the lineage, God knitted his Son into the world of man from the very beginning, and yet, when the prophecies came to pass, there was doubt. We still struggle with Christ's birth and later, His life, death, and resurrection because our sorrow, shame, anger, apathy, or plain distraction dims the magnitude and magnificence.

We miss the joy.

“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:10-13

Do you not see the joy? Jesus was no alien to this world - “He came to His own.” He was meant for the world because *we* are in the world. We are beloved by the Lord. And when we receive Him, our bonds to our past, our sins, our wills are no longer. We are free and can choose to remain in freedom by following our Father.

But when we miss the joy of Christ's birth, we live as if we are still waiting for God's promises to be fulfilled.

For this season, I pray our eyes are fixed on the glory of the Lord because His Son did come and His promises were fulfilled through Christ. May we continue to seek, study, and fellowship according to His will so our worries and burdens do not shield us from His joy. And may Christ shine through us so the world may also see the joy of the Lord is upon them and receive Him. In flesh, in blood, and in the spirit, we are His own. Beloved before time began and until the end of time. Amen.

Hallelujah! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Grace & Peace,  
Dr. Charles & Deborah Travis

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