



- Across:**
- 1. Saviour
 - 3. Joseph's espoused wife
 - 4. Many
 - 5. What angels said (2 words)
 - 8. City of David
 - 10. Baby clothes
 - 13. Shepherds reaction to seeing angels
 - 14. Place of lodging
 - 15. Herd of sheep
- Down:**
- 1. Espoused husband
 - 2. Sheep watchers
 - 3. Feeding trough
 - 6. Why Joseph went to Bethlehem
 - 7. Many
 - 9. Engaged
 - 10. Redeemer
 - 11. Staying
 - 12. "— to God in highest ..."
 - 13. Heavenly creature

Answers at: <http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/Puzzle/Luke2.htm>

Keep Christ in Christmas

Author Unknown

As now we celebrate His birth,
The coming of the Christ to earth,
May we, amid our joyous mirth,
Keep Jesus first in Christmas!

As chiming bells ring out
their lay,

And hearts are merry, light,
and gay,
Remember it is His birthday —
Keep Jesus first in Christmas!

Let's sing of Him in carols sweet,
Let's lay our best gifts at His feet
And make the season's joy
complete —
With Jesus first in Christmas!

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What Do People See in You?

A young abandoned girl was found sick and wandering the streets. She was brought to the hospital by some kind soul. There her body was not only healed, but a concerned worker told her that God loved her and had a way for her to go to heaven. The child sat with open mouth



as she was told how Jesus came to this earth as a babe, and died on a cruel cross for her sins. Eagerly, she accepted the invitation to trust Christ alone as her Saviour. Joy filled her life as she had a new-found hope and knew that she was deeply loved.

As a nurse came to give her scheduled medicines, the little girl asked her, "Do you know about Jesus, and that we are remembering His birth at Christmas?"

"Of, course, I do. Now con-

serve your strength," whispered the RN.

"You do?" questioned the child. "You look like you don't, and I was going to tell you about Him?"

"How do I look?" questioned the nurse.

"Oh, all sad and unhappy, like most folks. I figured if you had known about Jesus you would be happy?"

Oh Christian, do people see the joy of being saved in our faces, or do we look like the rest of the world that does not have the hope of a heavenly future?

God Gave

Bill Brinkworth

At a time when everyone is giving gifts to each other, it would do us well to remember what God has given us:

❖ God has given us everything we have: food, drink, health, ability to work, and a mind to think and accomplish all that we do. There is nothing that we have that God has not, one way or another, allowed us to have. Those that

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God Gave

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proudly proclaim they have “done it all themselves” do not understand that every breath, every heartbeat, and all that we do, are allowed by God. There is no such thing as a “self-made man”. “And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.” Ecclesiastes 3:13 “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.” I Corinthians 3:6

❖ God has given the gift of salvation to all that will accept His way to heaven. God has given His son, Jesus, to die and pay for our transgressions. All that accept Jesus’ death on the cross as payment for their sin can have the gift of salvation. “*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Romans 6:23 “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*” Ephesians 2:8-9

❖ For those that are saved, God gave His gift of the Holy Spirit to them. “... *and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” Acts 2:38 “*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and*

bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26

❖ For those that are saved, God has given them one or more spiritual gifts to serve Him. “*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on that teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*”

Romans 12:6-8

❖ For those that are saved, God has given us power over the many obstacles we face during our lifetime. “*And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*” Matthew 21:22 “*And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*”

I John 3:22

God is so wonderful to give us all that He has given us. None deserve His goodness. The least we can do is to give back to Him part of what He has allowed us to have. We should give to Him, not because we have to, but be-

cause we want to. God wants us to serve Him, obey Him, and live for him because we love him. Do you love Him enough to give back to a giving God? No one can give more than our heavenly Father has, but will you give of your time, finances, and life to Him?

What Really Did Happen on the First Christmas?

Luke, as given by the Holy Spirit

“*And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:;) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and*

the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”

Luke 2:1-20

“The light that shined from the humble manger is strong enough to lighten our way to the end of our days.” — Vita-Rays

“Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season!”