

THE TRUE ESSENCE OF CHRISTMAS

TEXT: Isaiah 9:6-7

We are in that special season once again. A season of joy, peace and celebrations. A season we celebrate the birth of Christ the king, the redeemer of mankind. As we gather here today to celebrate the Christmas season, let us take a moment to reflect on the true essence of Christmas and the life changing message that lies at the heart of this joyous season.

What does Christmas really mean to you and me and the Christian fraternity? To quote George F Mc dogall" Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and the love of men should prevail. A time when our thoughts, deeds and spirit of our lives should manifest the presence of God. The above comment says it all. Christmas is not about merry making. We must spare some time and reflect about the true essence of the period.

The essence of Christmas is:

1. Love (John 3:16)

Celebrating of God's gift of love – for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life

The essence of Christmas is in the divine act of love, God's unquantifiable love for humanity – it's a love so deep that he sent his only son Jesus Christ to be born among us. His love goes beyond our understanding and Christmas is a reminder of the length God went to reconcile us to himself.

As we celebrate Christmas today, let us spread the love of God to those around us. Let someone know that God loves them. Make peace with those you are not in good terms with. Spread the love.

2. Humility (Phil 2: 6-8)

"who being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage, rather he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness and being made in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by being obedient to death, even death on the cross".

The true essence of Christmas also reflected in the humility of Christ. Christmas should teach us about humility and selflessness. God in his infinite wisdom chose a path of humility to reach out to us. This should inspire us to embrace humility in our own lives as we serve others with joy. Yes its celebration time but in our celebration and spending let us be humble. Remember there are some of us who have nothing.

3. Hope (John 1:5, Isaiah 19:6)

"The light shines in darkness and the darkness has not welcomed it. Christmas brings the message of hope and light in the midst of darkness. Jesus is the light of the world and his birth brings the dawn of a new era.

In a world often overshadowed by darkness, sin, despair, and brokenness, Christ dispels the gloom. As we celebrate let us be bearers of this light, sharing the hope and love found in Jesus with those around us.

Conclusion

As we celebrate the festivities of this Christmas season, let us not lose sight of the true essence, the love, the humility, and the hope that Jesus Christ brought into the world. May our hearts be filled with joy for God's precious gift and may we in turn share this message of love and hope with everyone we encounter. Amen

MERRY CHRISTMAS