

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 12-1: The Real Meaning of Christmas

The annual (每年) festival (节日) commemorating (纪念) the birth of Jesus Christ, is celebrated (庆祝) on December 25 in all churches. Indeed, the most wonderful good news for mankind is the Christmas message of the Incarnation (道成肉身) at Christmas night. The really staggering (令人震惊的) Christian claim (宣言) is that Jesus of Nazareth (拿撒列人耶稣) was God made man (神成为人); he came to earth as a helpless (无助的) human baby. Unlike any other baby, the one born that night in Bethlehem was unique (独一无二的) in all of history. He was not created by a human father and mother, but was conceived (怀孕) by the Holy Spirit (圣灵).

In the birth of Jesus, Why would God do such a thing? Why would Jesus come as a baby, instead of appearing in power and majesty (威严)? Why make himself a true man and live among us, when he knew full well how terribly he would be treated (对待)? It was LOVE! It was necessary, if you are to be saved (被拯救)! This is the greatest gift God give to mankind.

The baby born at Bethlehem was God made man; he was born to die for the sinners of the world (为世上罪人死). As John 3:16 says, “God so loved the world that he gave his only son to the world, that whoever believes in him should not perish (灭亡) but have eternal life (永生).” God is a God of love - a sacrificial love (牺牲的爱). Knowing this, the “Christmas spirit” for Christians is that they ought to live their lives on the principle of sacrificing their lives to enrich (使丰富) their fellow humans, to do well to others as God has done for us. We ought to love one another as God has loved us!

Have you accepted (接受) the MOST PRECIOUS GIFT (最宝贵的礼物) anyone could ever give you? Do you know the Bible says “Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment (审判), So Christ was sacrificed once to take

away the sins of many people” Do you know for sure that you are going to be with God in Heaven?

If God were to ask you, "Why should I let you into My Heaven?" what would you say? Find out now!"...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23) "To all who received Him (接受耶稣), to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12).

2. Discussion:

1. What are some of the popular ways Chinese celebrate Christmas?
2. What does this article tell us about the true meaning of Christmas?
3. Share your own reactions to this message.

3. Remember Seven Phrases a Week:

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| 470. The price just covers the cost. | 价格正好抵消成本。 |
| 471. The sweater is of good quality. | 这件毛衣质地很好。 |
| 472. The teacher got a little angry. | 老师有点生气了。 |
| 473. Think carefully before you act. | 三思而后行。 |
| 474. Watt invented the steam engine. | 瓦特发明了蒸汽机。 |
| 475. We are divided in our opinions. | 我们意见分歧。 |
| 476. What ever I said, he'd disagree. | 说什么他都不同意。 |

4. Proverbs:

1. There is no greater love than this that a man would die for his friends. (Gospel of John 15:12)
2. God is love, whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. (1 John 4:16)
3. We love because God first love us. (1 John 4:19)