

Why Jesus Brings True Joy to the World

The gifts are wrapped and tagged. Cookies are baked and decorated. I've watched Christmas made-for-TV movies until even *I've* had enough ... and that's saying something!

Yes, I'm one of *those* people. You know, the ones who play Christmas carols in July and put up their tree before Thanksgiving. There's just something contagious about the joy of Christmas.

Apart from the Christmas season, we don't use the word *joy* very much. We speak more often of happiness. But happiness is changeable. It depends on our circumstances.

True joy wells up from a source greater than us and our circumstances. And one of the greatest, purest joys comes from the reason for Christmas.

Now in the glow of the Christmas tree lights, I'm thinking again of the reason for the season. "Joy to the World" is streaming while I type. As I listen to the words written by Isaac Watts, I'm reminded of who the baby in the manger really is.

He is the *Lord*, the one who created heaven and earth. He is the *King*. Because He created our world, He has the right to rule over it ... and us.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come/ Let earth receive her King;

*Let every heart prepare Him room/ And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing/ And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

He is the *Savior*, the one who conquered sin and death to live

and reign for eternity.

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns/ Let men their songs
employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains/ Repeat the
sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy/ Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

He is the *source of blessing*. In every corner of the world
where sin lurks and sorrow results, His blessings will flow,
all because God became man.

*No more let sins and sorrows grow/ Nor thorns infest the
ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow/ Far as the curse is
found,
Far as the curse is found/ Far as, far as the curse is found.*

His nature is the essence of *truth*. Even though we may not
always like what He says, it is always true. We don't deserve
the salvation He provides, but by His grace He offers us His
righteousness so we can stand before our holy God. And He does
it because of His great love for us.

*He rules the world with truth and grace/ And makes the
nations prove
The glories of His righteousness/ And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love/ And wonders, and wonders of His
love.*

Jesus is Lord, King and Savior. He is truth and grace,
righteousness and love. He is the reason for our joy!

Will you join me in singing for joy this Christmas? {eoa}

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This article originally appeared at .

For more ideas on the celebration of Christmas, check out the Charisma e-book, A December to Remember, available at this link for just \$.