

# 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY!



## *'Tis the Season To Be Jolly*



**But not everyone is jolly this time of the year...**

The holiday season with its busy schedule of activities can sometimes become emotionally demanding and stressful. Some people during this season of the year even suffer from bouts of discouragement and depression. Whether the *'holiday blues'* are a problem for you or not, I wonder if you would take a moment to consider God's message of *"good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people."*

When you and I were born, we came into this world with nothing, except for the natural abilities, tendencies, and character traits that God gave us through our parents. But spiritually speaking, you and I came into this world (like all the rest of mankind) with **an infinite hole in our souls**—a spiritual hole that craves to be filled. Each of us has attempted to fill this void with the things we see around us, and some of us have discovered the absolute futility of such an effort.

During the holiday season, many people try to escape the harsh reality of their own spiritual emptiness through an assortment of 'artificial fillers'. So they *'deck the halls with boughs of holly'* and *'don their gay apparel'* and try to create for themselves **illusions of happiness**. But these illusions can never satisfy the emptiness of our souls. True joy and meaning in life cannot be found at a shopping mall, at a Christmas party, or under the mistletoe. The so-called 'holiday spirit' will never compensate for spiritual bankruptcy!

Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus Christ, the prophet Isaiah foretold His coming with these words;

*“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*<sup>1</sup>

The supernatural, virgin birth of the Christ child changed the course of human history like no other event. Jesus Christ was holy God in human flesh. Amazing indeed, was the **mystery of the birth of Jesus Christ!**<sup>2</sup>

Perhaps you are wondering how it is possible for God to become a man. True faith believes the biblical testimony that nothing is too hard for God, and that with God all things are possible.<sup>3</sup> God’s works and ways are far greater than our loftiest dreams and imaginations.<sup>4</sup> Most amazing of all is the reason why God became a man. The Bible teaches that Christ became a man so that He might suffer the sorrows, pains, and the penalty of death that our sins deserved.<sup>5</sup>

It is important for you to know that Jesus Christ, as the *“Wonderful, Counselor,”* is intimately familiar with your past and present circumstances. He knows what you have gone through, and what you are going through now. He knows your struggles, your heartaches, your needs... and He knows your emptiness. The Lord Jesus Christ is also *“the mighty God,”* who has all authority and power to save *“His people from their sins.”*<sup>6</sup> The biblical truth, is that there is no problem too difficult for the Savior to handle, and no sins too numerous or so horrible that He cannot forgive.<sup>7</sup>

Real fulfillment in life cannot be found in either the pursuit of pleasure or the possession of things. Satisfaction in this life can only be experienced by those who have come to God with their sins and their emptiness, and by faith, have received Jesus Christ as their Savior. This is the reason that Jesus lived, died and rose from the dead, that He might save us from our own ways and rule as *“the Prince of Peace”* in our hearts.<sup>8</sup> His sufferings and death on the cross nearly two thousand years ago, is the only means by which sinners like you and I can ever find true acceptance with God.<sup>9</sup>

There may not be, *‘Joy to the World’* or *‘Peace On Earth’* today, but there is fullness of joy and real peace in the hearts of all who turn from their sins unto the Savior.<sup>10</sup> Heaven and earth cannot contain the infinite Creator, yet He desires to fill the empty human soul.

My dear friend, do you long to know the fullness of God? Then believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and He will save and satisfy your soul. Then you too will know the fullness and the joy of being right with God!<sup>11</sup>

*1 John 1:4 ... “And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”*

#### REFERENCES

1. Isaiah 9:6; 7:14
2. John 1:1,14; 1 Timothy 3:16
3. Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26
4. 1 Corinthians 2:9
5. Hebrews 5:7-9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18
6. Matthew 28:18; Matthew 1:18-23
7. 1 John 1:9; Micah 7:18,19
8. Romans 14:9; Revelation 1:5
9. Ephesians 1:6,7
10. Isaiah 55:6,7
11. John 7:38; Romans 10:9-13; 1 Peter 1:8,9; Psalm 16:11

## Emmanuel Baptist Church

60 Middle River Dr. Verona, VA 24482

I-81... Exit 227 ... West onto Laurel Hill Rd. ... Left onto Rt. 11 (see map below)

[www.ebc-verona.net](http://www.ebc-verona.net)

Church office: 540-248-1776

### Sunday Services

Adult & Children's Bible Classes ... 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.

