

Christmas and the Kingdom

1. Christmas is the eternal Kingdom of Heaven reaching us through the baby Jesus Christ- this is the significance of Christmas. *Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 9:1-2; Colossians 3:13-14*

2. Christmas is the eternal Kingdom of Heaven restoring us to peace with God through Christ the King. *Luke 2:14; Romans 5:1*

The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of peace because through the Kingdom, through Jesus Christ the prince of peace, I have peace with God. God is pleased with me because of Christ in me.

3. Christmas is the eternal Kingdom of Heaven revealing through us, the body of Christ the King, His Kingdom to a world in desperate need of a King. *Romans 14:17*

3 Eternal Attributes that Reveal Christ's Kingdom Through Us:

- **Righteousness-** made right with God through Christ, I now live in right relationship with others. *2 Peter 1:3*
- **Peace-** at peace with God, I now give my life to help others piece their lives back together in Christ. *Matthew 5:9*
- **Joy-** fulfilled in Him, I now share the joy of knowing Christ and having my future secure in His Kingdom. *Colossians 1:11b-12; 2 Peter 1:4-8; 2 Peter 1:10-11; Matthew 6:33*

Next week's reading guide:

Matthew 1:18; 1 Corinthians 4:20
Matthew 24:29-31
Acts 1:1-8
Romans 1:16-32
Romans 8
Galatians 5:16-26
Ephesians 3:14-21

Discussion Questions:

1. Share some favorite Christmas traditions and memories.
2. When you think about Christmas, what are the images that come to mind? (Gift-giving, Claymation movies, Decorations, Food, Smells) Have you ever thought of Christmas as a military operation? Discuss.
3. Discuss righteousness, peace and joy as explained in the teaching. How are you doing in each of these?
4. How are you living to reveal and advance the Kingdom right where you live and work? Share.