

A Special Christmas Message That You Can Give

During Christmas you have an opportunity to share a special message with your family and friends. The message of the Christmas story brings hope. Christmas is a time that you can share with people the exciting news that God understands their world and He has the power to affect their world.

In the first chapter of the gospel of John, God makes it very clear that He understands our world. John 1:1 tells us:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (NIV)

And God adds in John 1:14:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (NIV)

So God came to earth as a baby and grew up in our world. Jesus is God, but He was also man. And living in our world He was subject to all the struggles and temptations that we face. God makes that clear in Hebrews 4:15:

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin. (NIV)

God understands our world. But can He affect our world? The answer is a qualified, "Yes." For God can affect our world only as far as we allow Him too. Jesus made this clear when He said in Matthew 11:28:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (NIV)

Jesus said that He will affect our world by giving us rest, but we must come to Him. God will affect our world, but only if we allow Him too. There are two responses that God is looking for; Jesus lists them in John 5:24:

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." (NIV)

For God to affect our life we must hear the message of Christmas; that Jesus came to earth as a man and died for our sins on the cross. But we must also believe that God could do such a thing. We must also be willing to accept what Jesus did for us and invite Him into our life.

When we hear the message of Christmas and believe it we allow God to work in our life. Give this message to your family and friends this Christmas!

In Him and for His glory,

Pastor Art