

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

The Bad News:

Because, by our nature, we are _____, we have fallen under the condemnation of our creator and He is bound by his own righteous character to preserve the worth of his glory by pouring out eternal wrath upon our sin.

God does not, He cannot, wink at human _____.

The good news:

The _____ of God has ordained a way
for the _____ of God
to _____ us from the wrath of God
Without compromising the _____ of God.

JOHN PIPER

Salvation is not about human goodness, but about God's goodness; not about human effort, but about God's effort; not about our works on earth but about Christ's work on the _____.

It's the Thought that Counts?

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The Challenging News:

We must make God's offer of salvation _____! Just because Christ came to earth and ultimately died for our sins does not mean we are Christians. We must reach out and accept by faith God's offer of His Son Jesus. It's NOT the thought that counts, but an intentional commitment to trust in Christ's good work and not our own.

"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test." 2 Corinthians 13:5-6

How to become a follower of Christ.

- A _____ that I am a sinner and that I need a savior.
- B _____ that Jesus Christ is the Savior and that his death on the Cross has the power to wipe away my sin and put me in a right relationship with God.
- C _____ my sin to God and invite Jesus be my savior, trusting in His death on the cross and resurrection to make me a child of God.
- D _____ to turn from my sins (repent) and walk with God in Christ toward healing and wholeness and maturity.
- E _____ the benefits of being a child of God.

Conversion is evident in the life of a true believer because God generates a new _____. Behind the repentance that turns away from sin and behind the faith that embraces Christ is the birth of a new taste, a new longing, a new passion for the pleasure of God's presence. This is the root of conversion and this is the real reason for the SEASON!

"We are converted when Christ becomes for us a treasure chest of holy Joy."

John Piper