

Christ

PEACE

Prevailing

JOY

Abounding

LOVE

Born

HOPE

Given

Review: Live in the Joy of Christmas

Advent Week 3

A Candle of Joy



Favorite Joy Verses

*John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that **my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.***

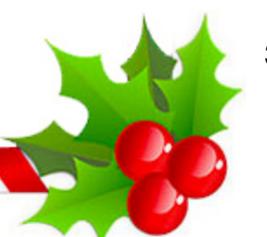
*Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope **fill you with all joy** and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.*

*Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and **joy** in the Holy Ghost.*

*Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

*1 Pet 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with **joy unspeakable** and full of glory:*

*Neh 8:8,10 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; **for the joy of the LORD is your strength.***



Advent Week 4



A Candle of Peace

www.reasonsforhopeJesus.com

Advent Peace

We light an Advent candle each Sunday leading up to Christmas to prepare our hearts by 1. renewing our hope, 2. growing our love, 3. rejoicing in Christ, and 4. finding rest and peace.

Christmas Advent Candle 1 was HOPE: Prophecy Gives Hope

Christmas Advent Candle 2 was LOVE: God's Promises Reveal His Love

Christmas Advent Candle 3 was JOY: Jesus is our Joy

Christmas Advent Candle 4 is PEACE: Pause to Receive Peace



Advent Peace

Pause to Find Peace

As we draw nearer to Christmas day, many are overwhelmed with all the holiday “necessities” yet to be completed. Gifts still need to be purchased, wrapped, and some delivered. Cookies need to be baked. Plans for church services on Christmas eve need to be finalized. Food for Christmas meals needs to be planned, purchased, and some pre-prepared. Oh my! So much to do and so little time. People are making a list, and they’re checking it twice.

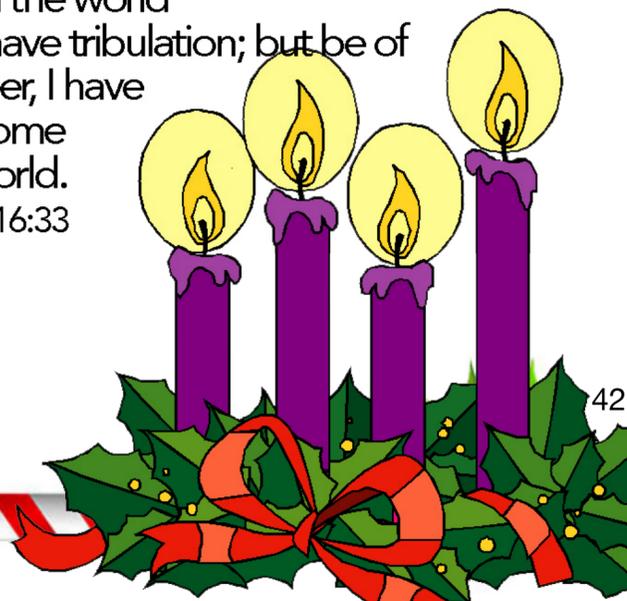
On the top of every Christmas to-do list should be one word — PAUSE.

No matter the length of the list or the urgency of the tasks, it’s important to be still, to pause, and to find peace.

Peace with God vs. the Peace of God

We have peace with God, but the peace of God is a choice and it’s found in the “pause.”

These things I have
spoken to you, that in Me you might have
peace. In the world
you shall have tribulation; but be of
good cheer, I have
overcome
the world.
John 16:33





www.reasonsforhopeJESUS.com

<https://reasonsforhopejesus.com/hidden-message-found-pause/>

Advent Peace

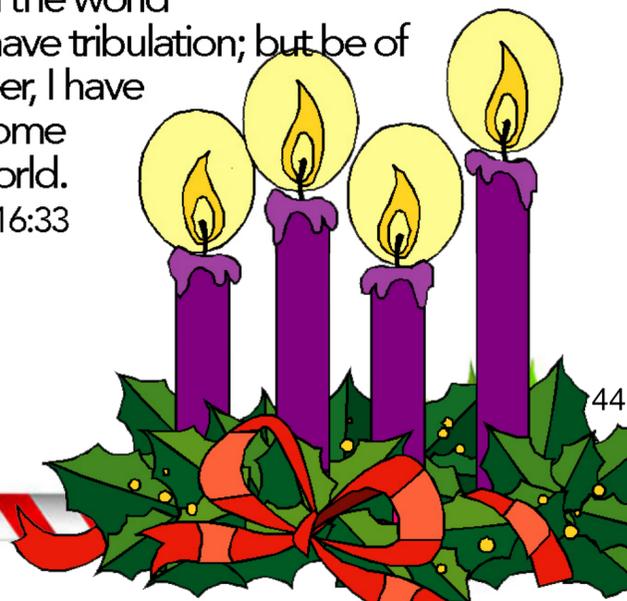
Peace WITH God

Peace with God is an objective peace. It doesn't come from within ourselves. It's not something we obtain. It is something we are freely given. It is a gift from God — a gift given to us by Jesus.

Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross and, when we repent and trust in Him, He is faithful to forgive our sins and save us. Jesus absorbed the wrath of God that should have been ours. He made peace WITH God for us and He gives us that peace *with* God in our salvation. This peace is a fact, not a feeling. It is finished and it never changes or diminishes.

*Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

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Advent Peace

Peace OF God

Peace of God is a subjective peace. We have it when we experience the peace that comes through trusting Jesus. This peace is also given to us by God, and it produces in us a feeling of well-being. Having peace WITH God, we know that we have the Holy Spirit and that Jesus' grace is sufficient in all things. Therefore, when we keep our eyes on Jesus and we rightly remember Who He is, what He has done for us, and who we are in Him, we experience the calm, and peace, of resting in Him. That is how we receive the peace OF God. Sadly, when we allow anxiety and fear to set in, our peace dwindles and our joy is diminished.

Paul warns us against such worry and he tells us that it is "with thanksgiving" we are to come to God. We are to remember all that God has given us and give Him thanks. Then we find rest in Jesus and experience the peace of God.

Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

These things I have
s**P**oken to you, that in Me you might have
peac**E**. In the world
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Advent Peace

Jesus IS Peace!

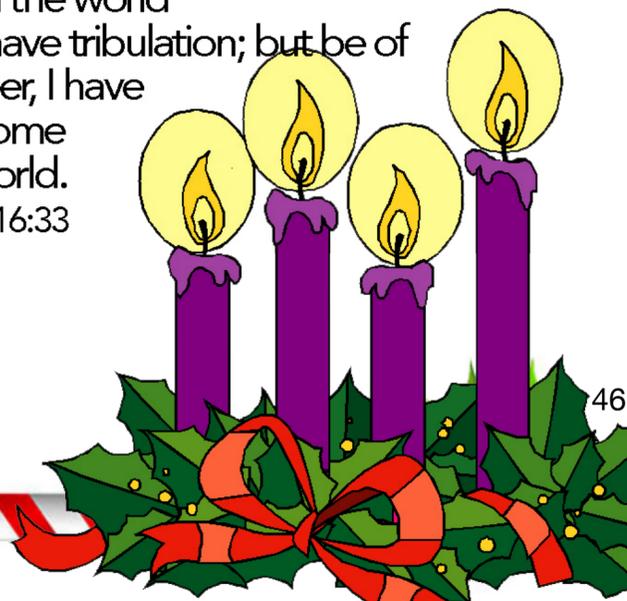
When we read the account of angels announcing Jesus' birth to the shepherds, we read that they praised God by proclaiming:

Luke 2:14 *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

The angels proclaimed peace, but not a condition of peace on earth as some say. They proclaimed that “on earth” there was peace and that “Peace” was Jesus born in Bethlehem. They also proclaimed that “on earth” there was “good will toward man” and Jesus was that “Good Will.” His entering into our world was the greatest expression of God’s good will toward us.

Jesus’ birth brought peace, because He is Peace. His presence was “on earth Peace” but not peace on earth. There was much unrest during Jesus’ earthly life. Throughout the centuries there has never been peace on earth (at least not since the Garden), but there is “on earth peace” because Jesus is dwelling in the soul of every born-again believer through the power of His Holy Spirit.

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Advent Peace

Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Jesus is our peace on this earth and for all eternity. He opened the way to peace *with* God and He desires that you choose to pause and receive the peace *of* God. That's true rest

Psalm 40:16 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. . .

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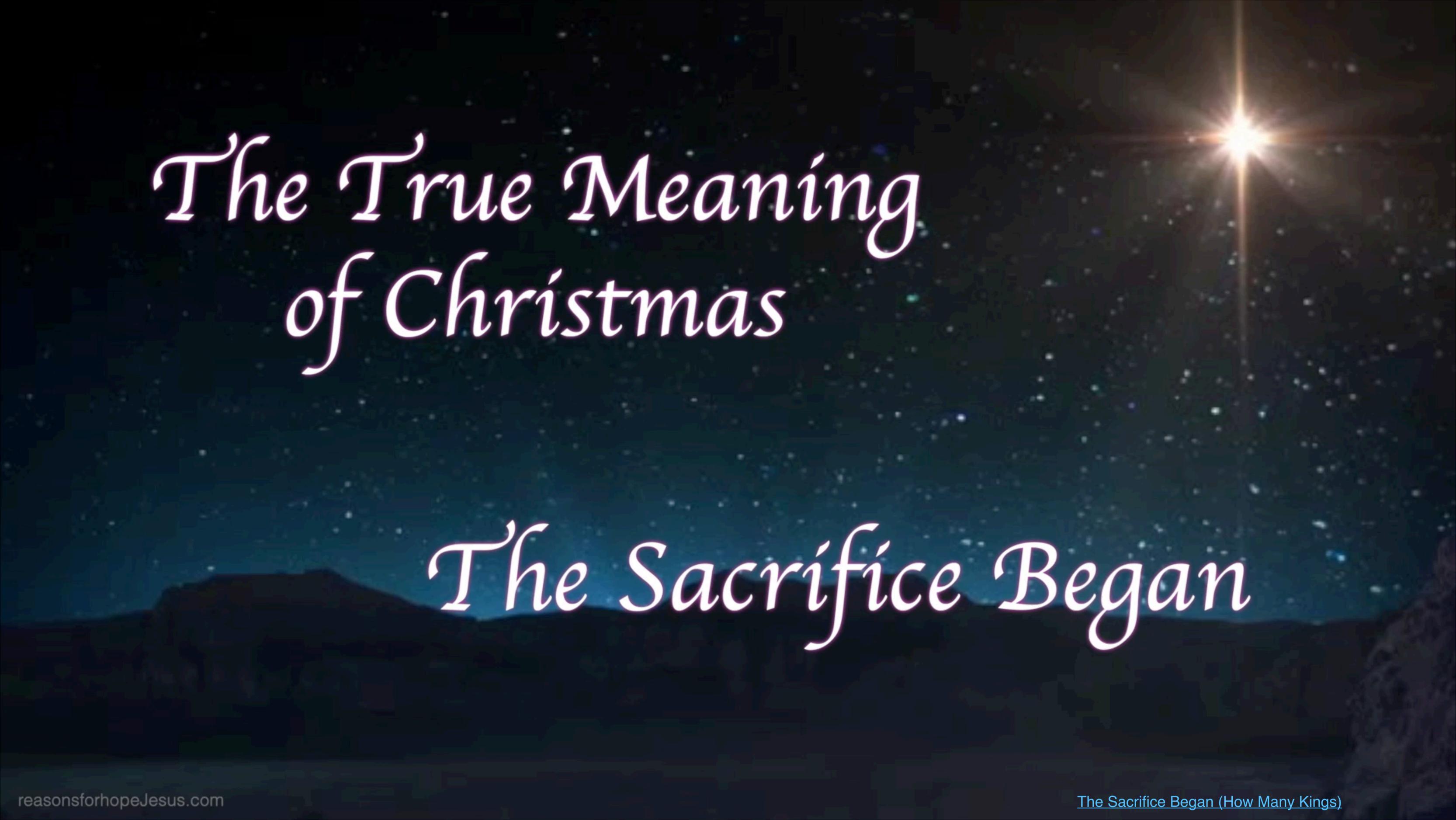
Advent Peace

What Steals Your Peace?

1. Pride: Don't let the world define you or entice you (1 John 2:15-17).
2. Fear: Fear God, not man. (Eccl 12:13, Matt 10:28)
3. Worry: Have confidence in God (Phil 1:6)
4. Doubt: Trust in who God is, what He has done, and all He promises to do. (Psa 18:2)
5. Self-focus: Look to Jesus. (Heb 12:2)

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A night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner, casting a vertical beam of light. The sky is dark blue with many small stars. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted mountains.

*The True Meaning
of Christmas*

The Sacrifice Began



Mary's Child



PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM
ALL BLESSINGS FLOW