



Unto us a Son is given

Christmas 2021

It is that "most wonderful time of the year" again and I love it! I love the traditions, the music, the decorations, the gifts and the food just to name a few things about this season. However, what I love most is what Christmas is all about and that is JESUS, our Savior, the very Son of God coming into this world, born of a virgin for the purpose of going to Calvary to die for our sins. This is brought out specifically in Isaiah 9:6, "*For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given...*" Here we see both the *humanity* and the *deity* of Christ. "...*a child is born...*" refers to His birth in Bethlehem and "...*a son is given...*" is speaking of how that "*God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son...*" dying for our sins at Calvary. Jesus, indeed, was born to die and, thank God, He accomplished His mission for coming to earth (Galatians 4:4-5).

Joyce and I wish for each of you a very Merry Christmas and a most joyous New Year in JESUS. Enjoy all of the good "things" of Christmas but don't forget to honor Him Who it's all about. Every gift we give and get, let's remember **the greatest Gift** ever given (2 Corinthians 9:15). The Angelic host who announced His birth to the lowly shepherds on that Judean hillside the first Christmas night, proclaimed, "*Glory to God in the highest...*," meaning that in the highest heaven God is glorified. God manifested His glory in the person of the Lord Jesus and He went to the Cross to redeem mankind whose whole purpose is to glorify our LORD. That old Westminster Confession had it right when it most eloquently stated, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." Christ was born to glorify God. He died to glorify God and He saves us to bring glory to God. May God be honored, magnified and glorified through our lives during this Christmas season.

Please do not forget our men and women who wear our nation's uniforms and especially those who will be serving overseas and in places without their families. It is often a feeling of isolation and emptiness. Probably the loneliest time of my life was Christmas Eve 1967 in Viet Nam when I walked by a building about midnight and saw a lighted Christmas tree in the window. Please pray for our military folks around the world during this season and please remember, also, to pray for our military missionaries, many of whom will be away from their extended family and friends.

Once again, have a blessed, joyous and very Merry Christmas. We love you all and remain...

In Christ's Service,

Jeff & Joyce Alverson

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