



# The Messenger

## What Does Jesus Want This Christmas?

### Reading God's Prayers

What does Jesus want this Christmas? We can see the answer in his prayers. What does he ask God for? His longest prayer is [John 17](#). The climax of his desire is in verse 24.

Among all the undeserving sinners in the world, there are those whom God has "given" to Jesus. These are those whom God has drawn to the Son ([John 6:44, 65](#)). These are *Christians*—people who have *received* Jesus as the crucified and risen Savior and Lord and Treasure of their lives ([John 1:12; 3:17; 6:35; 10:11, 17–18; 20:28](#)). Jesus says he wants them to be with him.

Sometimes we hear people say that God created man because he was lonely. So they say, "God created us so that we would be *with him*." Does Jesus agree with this? Well, he *does* say that he really wants us to be with him! Yes, but why? Consider the rest of the verse. Why does Jesus want us to be with him?

. . . to see my glory that you [Father] have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

That would be a strange way of expressing his loneliness. "I want them with me so they can see my glory." In fact, it doesn't express his loneliness. It expresses his concern for the satisfaction of *our* longing, not *his* loneliness. Jesus is not lonely. He and the Father and the Spirit are profoundly satisfied in the fellowship of the Trinity. We, not he, are starving for something. And what Jesus wants for Christmas is for us to experience what we were really made for—seeing and savoring his glory. Oh, that God would make this sink in to our souls! Jesus made us ([John 1:3](#)) to see his glory.

Just before he goes to the cross, Jesus pleads his deepest desires with the Father: "Father, I *desire* [I desire!] that they . . . may be with me where I am, *to see my glory*." But that is only half of what Jesus wants in these final, climactic verses of his prayer. I just said we were really made for seeing *and savoring* his glory. Is that what he wants—that we not only see his glory but savor it, relish it, delight in it, treasure it, love it? Consider verse 26, the very last verse:

I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, *that the love with which you have loved me may be in them*, and I in them. Jesus's longing and goal is that we see his glory, and then that we be able to love what we see with the same love that the Father has for the Son.

That is the end of the prayer. What is Jesus's *final* goal for us? Not that we simply see his glory, but that we love him with the same love that the Father has for him: "that the love with which you [Father] have loved me may be in them."

Jesus's longing and goal is that we see his glory, and then that we be able to love what we see with the same love that the Father has for the Son. And he doesn't mean that we merely *imitate* the love of the Father for the Son. He means the Father's very love becomes our love for the Son—that we love the Son with the love of the Father for the Son. This is what the Spirit becomes and bestows in our lives: love for the Son by the Father through the Spirit.

What Jesus wants most for Christmas is that his elect be gathered in and then get what *they* want most—to *see* his glory and then *savor* it with the very savoring of the Father for the Son.

What I want most for Christmas this year is to join you (and many others) in seeing Christ in all his fullness, and that we together be able to love what we see with a love far beyond our own half-hearted human capacities.

This is our goal in these Advent devotionals. We want together to see and savor this Jesus whose first advent (coming) we celebrate, and whose second advent we anticipate. This is what Jesus prays for us this Christmas: "Father, show them my glory and give them the very delight in me that you have in me." Oh, may we *see* Christ with the eyes of God and *savor* Christ with the heart of God. That is the essence of heaven. That is the gift Christ came to purchase for sinners at the cost of his death in our place.

*This article is adapted from [Good News of Great Joy: 25 Devotional Readings for Advent](#) by John Piper.*



### Stitching with Love Ministry

meets every 1st Thursday  
December 7 at 9am –12pm.

### Men's Prayer Breakfast

Every 2nd Saturday of each month  
December 9 at 8 am

### Home Extension Club

meets every 3rd Wednesday  
December 13 at 9:30am –12pm

### Sr. Saints Fellowship

meets every 3rd Tuesday  
December 19 at 11:00 am



If you say the word December, my first thought is Christmas, the day we celebrate Jesus' birth. When I think of what Jesus means to me, well, I just cannot put it into words. So, I would like to share an editorial from an old newspaper. This is from the Advertiser Neosho, Missouri, December 13, 1989.

ONE SOLITARY LIFE  
(author unknown)

Here is a man who was born of Jewish parents in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter's shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of His divine humanity. While He was still a

young man, the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. One betrayed Him and turned Him over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying- and that was His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down, and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today He is the Centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of a man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life.

God bless you and your family with a Christ filled Christmas.  
**Terry Fortner**

## IMB | Lottie Moon Christmas Offering & Week of Prayer for International Missions December 3-10, 2023

A GREAT  
MULTITUDE  
FROM EVERY  
NATION  
KNOWING AND  
WORSHIPING  
JESUS

REVELATION 7:9



This year, the national Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal is \$200 million and out of that, the Zion Hill goal is \$10,000. Last year's offering totaled \$194,314,716 (as of Sept. 28), surpassing the \$190 million goal for the 2022-2023 Lottie season. Goals like these are only reached through cooperation of Southern Baptists by prayer and faithful giving. While the offering is named after the Christmas season, people can give throughout the year. Did you know that 59% of the world today is considered unreached—meaning Jesus is largely unknown among 4.5 billion people? 100% of gifts to the Lottie Moon Offering supports missionary presence and enables gospel transformation among the unreached. Over 90% of the IMB teams actively engage at least one unreached people group. During this year's SBC annual meeting, IMB President Paul Chitwood emphasized the importance of working together. "Your IMB missionaries are addressing the world's greatest problem with the only solution, God's solution — the Gospel. But they need your prayers, your support, your continued generosity and more workers in the harvest," he said. Because of their steadfast presence among the nations, 3,521 missionaries and 95 Global Missionary Partners were able to engage 67 new people groups and places and see 178,177 people come to Christ last year. "This can only happen if we work together to raise up more missionaries and champion the Lottie Moon offering and the Cooperative Program." Prayer guides and offering envelopes will be included in your bulletins.

## Youth, Children & Other Happenings

### Weekly Youth & Young Adult Gatherings

Wednesday Night *Switch* Services

Music and a devotion from 6:30-7:30pm

Sunday Night *The Jumble* at 5:30 pm

Food, fellowship & Bible Study

**Invite your friends and come join us!**

## Christmas Gatherings

- ◆ December 1 at 2 pm Dorcas SS Christmas Party
- ◆ December 8 at 6:30 pm Joint Co-Ed Christmas Party
- ◆ December 9 from 2-4 pm Christmas Open House at the Pastor's House (15 Oak Brook Drive-Cabot, AR)
- ◆ December 14 at 10:30 am Searchers SS Party
- ◆ December 16 at 6 pm Youth Christmas Party
- ◆ December 16 at 10 am Children's Christmas Party
- ◆ December 17 at 11 am Adult & Children's Christmas Program
- ◆ December 24 at 6 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



### Adult & Children Christmas Program



The adult choir will be presenting the Best Gift of All Christmas Program on December 17 during the morning worship and also the Children will be presenting a special program they have been working hard on. Come enjoy and I'm sure you'll be blessed by their presentation!

### Schools Out

- CABOT Dec. 15-Jan 3, Jan. 15
- PCSSD Dec. 18-Jan 2, Jan. 15
- JNP Dec. 22—Jan. 5, Jan.15

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



12-19-1997

I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT FREE GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY DOES HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN

### Gary Vaile Retirement Celebration



You're invited for food, fellowship, and fun! Join us for a retirement potluck for Gary Vaile on **December 3**, right after morning worship. Bring your favorite dish to share as we congratulate Gary on his retirement after 12 ½ years of leading Zion Hill's worship of our Lord. See you in the Fellowship Hall!

December 9 from 2-4 pm



Open House at the Pastor's House

## Zion Hill Baptist Church Service Times

### Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Morning Worship  
 11:30 am Children's Worship (Fellowship Hall)  
 5:30 pm The Jumble Gathering (Fellowship Hall)  
 6:00 pm Growth Group (Sanctuary)  
 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study (Basement)

### Tuesday

10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study

### Wednesday

6:30 pm Mid-Week Services  
 Bible Study & Prayer Meeting  
 (3rd Wednesday is Business Meeting)  
 GA's, RA's, Mission Friends,  
 Youth *Switch Service*  
 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice



Thanks to your contributions, we were able to send 26 boxes plus a tote full of extra items. If you would like to follow the journey of the gifts, once they are processed in late December or early January, you can go to [samaritanspurser.org](http://samaritanspurser.org) and click on the link FOLLOW YOUR BOX. Then just enter the email [zionhillbc@gmail.com](mailto:zionhillbc@gmail.com) and it will tell you the country of destination the boxes were sent to.

## December Activities

1	2:00 pm	Dorcas SS Christmas Party
2	11:00 am	Grief Share Surviving the Holidays
3	8:00 am	Deacon's Meeting
3		Sunday Services—Lord's Supper
3	12:00 pm	Retirement Party for Gary Vaile
3	3:30 pm	Grief Share Support Group
3	5:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
3-10		Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon International Missions
5	10:00 am	Tuesday Bible Study
6	5:45 pm	Wednesday Night Meal
6		Wednesday Midweek Services
7	9:00 am	Stitching with Love Ministry
8	6:30 pm	Joint Co-Ed Christmas Party
9	8:00 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast
9	2:00 pm	Christmas Open House at the Pastor's House
10		Sunday Services
10	3:30 pm	Grief Share Support Group
12	10:00 am	Tuesday Bible Study
13	9:30 am	Home Extension Club Meeting
13	5:45 pm	Wednesday Night Meal
13	6:30 pm	Wednesday Night Midweek Services
14	10:30 am	Searchers SS Christmas Party
16	6:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party
16	10:00 am	Children's Christmas Party
17		Sunday Services—Adult & Children's Christmas Program
17	12:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
17	3:30 pm	Grief Share Support Group
19	10:00 am	Tuesday Bible Study & Sr. Saints Fellowship
20	9:30 am	Extension Homemakers Meeting
20	5:45 pm	Wednesday Night Meal
20	6:30 pm	Wednesday Night Midweek Services & Business Meeting
24		Sunday Services—
24	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25		Christmas Day (Office will be closed 25 & 26)
27		No Evening Services
31		Sunday Services -
31	6:00 pm	Celebrate & Praise / Game Night to Bring in the New Year



Zion Hill Baptist Church

11923 Zion Hill Road  
 Cabot, AR 72023

Phone: 501.988.4989

Fax: 501.988.4020

E-mail: [zionhillbc@gmail.com](mailto:zionhillbc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.zionhillcabot.com](http://www.zionhillcabot.com)

Please use the following contact info when the church office is closed on weekends and holidays.

Terry Fortner, Sr. Pastor  
[terry.fortner@zionhillcabot.com](mailto:terry.fortner@zionhillcabot.com)  
 501.690.3428

Jeremy Jones, Associate Pastor  
[brojjones.92@gmail.com](mailto:brojjones.92@gmail.com)  
 501.231.5371

Gary Vaile, Music Director  
[gary.vaile@zionhillcabot.com](mailto:gary.vaile@zionhillcabot.com)  
 501.519.2868

Recent videos of Zion Hill's Sunday

## A Word from Jeremy

"If a person is thankful, they ought to say so!" I remember the surprise when I heard the booming and emphatic voice that spoke this phrase to me many years ago. It was the voice of a pastor friend of mine whom I had known for many years as one of the meekest and most soft-spoken men around. He was outraged at the idea that a person might receive something deserving of thanksgiving and never express it or make an outward show toward the gift giver. Thanksgiving has come and gone and our focus on the blessings in our life has the tendency to lessen as soon as the season comes to an end. However, my hope is that we would be ever thankful for the baby in a manger whose birth we celebrate this month. The gift of salvation is one of eternal significance and infinite value and worth. Take a few moments and think about the greatest gift a person has ever given you in this lifetime. A new car and an all expense paid vacation would be gifts likely to elicit a great demonstration of gratitude over an extended period of time. Though these gifts pale in comparison to the gift of God's only Son, we often live our lives with greater shows of appreciation for them than the immense, daily lifestyle of thanksgiving we should display for all that God has done for us. Lord, let us be a people who are thankful and who say so!

Merry  
 Christmas

