



WELCOME TO THE

Christmas
PARTY



**God is a
God of Celebrations!**



God celebrates
redemptive things.



God celebrates
when lost things are found.



God celebrates
when broken things get fixed.



God celebrates
when dead things come alive.

God instituted celebrations in the Old Testament

God instituted celebrations in the Old Testament

Left to their own devices, mankind tends to get on the treadmill of life, put their heads down, and keep their noses to the grindstone.

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"There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil.

This also, I saw, is from the hand of God."

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"the chief end of man is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever."

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The 7 primary Jewish feasts outlined in Leviticus 23

Leviticus 23 is the single chapter of the entire Tanakh (24 books of the Jewish Old Testament) that sums up everything.

God's redemptive plan--***from chaos to eternity***—is ingeniously revealed through the nature and timing of the seven Annual Feasts of the LORD.

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They were theological in that the observance of the festivals presented the participants with lessons on the reality of sin, judgment, and forgiveness, on the need for thanksgiving to God, and on the importance of trusting God rather than hoarding possessions.

They were typological in that they anticipated a greater fulfillment of the symbolism of the feasts. It is not surprising that each of the major feasts is in some way alluded to in the New Testament. On the other hand, the festivals could become meaningless rituals and were subject to the criticism of the prophets (Isa 1:13-14).

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¹³ Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.

¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

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Religion vs Relationship

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Hosea 6:6

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

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1. **Passover**
2. Unleavened Bread
3. First Fruits
4. **Pentecost**
5. Trumphets
6. Atonement
7. **Tabernacles**

The 3 Pilgrimage Feasts

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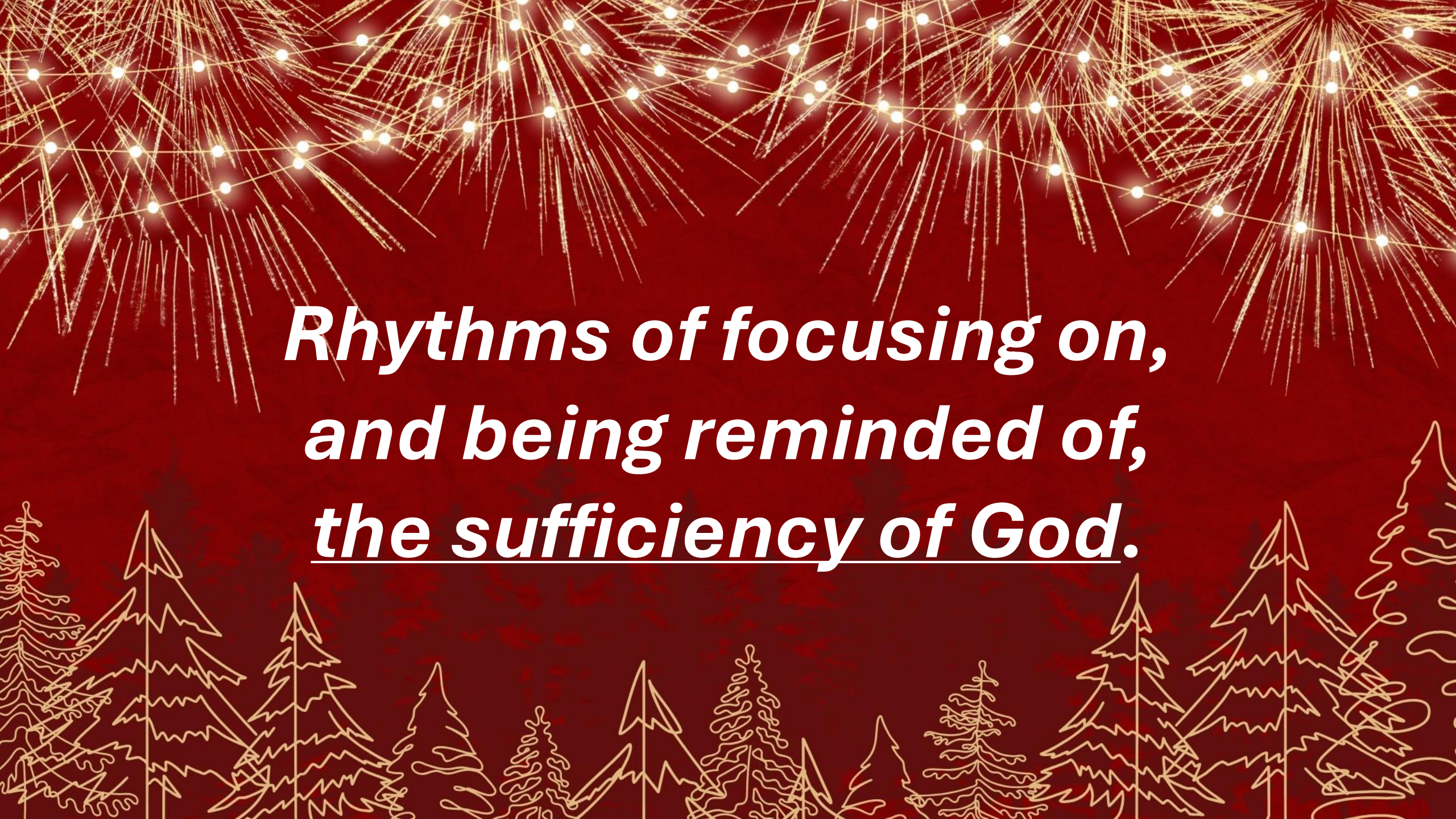
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***Rhythms of focusing on,
and being reminded of,
the sufficiency of God.***



***Rhythms of focusing on,
and being reminded of,
the preeminence of Christ.***

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1. **Passover** (*Pesach*)

2. Unleavened Bread

3. First Fruits



Spring Feasts

4. **Pentecost** (*Shavu'ot*)

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1. **Passover** (*Pesach*) → *Remembers Redemption*
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The 2nd Pilgrimage Feast

1. **Passover** (*Pesach*)

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3. First Fruits

Spring Feasts

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Spring Feasts

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6. Atonement

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Pentecost (*Shavu'ot*).....*The Feast of Weeks*

- In late May or early June (depending on the date of Passover) Shavu'ot marked the summer wheat harvest.
- It was a day of sacred assembly in which no work was allowed.
- The primary focus of Shavu'ot (Feast of Weeks) was a gratitude to God for the harvest.
- By Talmudic tradition it commemorates the giving of the 10 commandments at Mount Sinai.

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Leviticus 23:15-22

- ¹⁵ “You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the **wave offering**.
- ¹⁶ You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a **grain offering** of new grain to the Lord.
- ¹⁷ You shall bring from your dwelling places two loaves of bread to be waved, made of two tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour, and they shall be baked with leaven, as first fruits to the Lord.



- ¹⁸ And you shall present with the bread seven lambs a year old without blemish, and one bull from the herd and two rams. They shall be a **burnt offering** to the Lord, with their **grain offering** and their **drink offerings**, a **food offering** with a pleasing aroma to the Lord.
- ¹⁹ And you shall offer one male goat for a **sin offering**, and two male lambs a year old as a sacrifice of **peace offerings**.
- ²⁰ And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the first fruits as a **wave offering** before the Lord, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the Lord for the priest.



²¹ And you shall make a proclamation on the same day.

You shall hold a holy convocation.

You shall not do any ordinary work.

It is a statute forever in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.

²² “And when you reap the harvest of your land,

you shall not reap your field right up to its edge,

nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest.

You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner:

I am the Lord your God.”



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Pentecost (*Shavu'ot*).....*The Feast of Weeks*

In the Jewish holiday of **Shavu'ot**, the tradition of offering two loaves of leavened bread ("*shte'i halechem*") symbolizes the unity between Jews and non-Jews, representing the idea that God intends to bring all people together, as seen in the story of the giving of the Torah at **Shavu'ot** which is considered to be a universal message for all nations; the leaven itself representing the potential for human imperfection, yet still being brought before God as an offering of the first fruits of the harvest.

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Pentecost (*Shavu'ot*).....*The Feast of Weeks*

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Often, they will decorate the **chuppah** and the room with greenery because tradition suggests that the plant material on Mt. Siani blossomed in celebration of the marriage of God's people to their Creator.

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- **Moses** (the match maker)
- **Israel** (the bride)
- **God** (the bridegroom)
- **Torah** (the covenant of marriage for their flourishing)

Matthew 5:

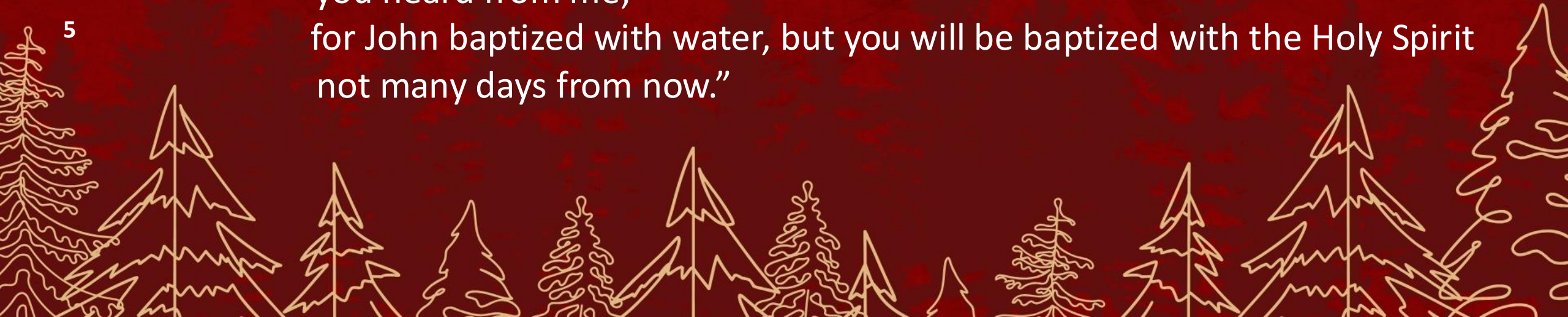
Jesus said,

“Do not think that I have come
to abolish the Law and the Prophets;
I have not come to abolish them **but to fulfill them.**

For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass
away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass away from the
Law until all is accomplished.”

Acts 1:1-5

- ¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,
² until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen.
- ³ He presented Himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.
- ⁴ And while staying with them He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said,
“you heard from me;
⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”



Acts 2:1-13

- ¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.
- ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
- ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.
- ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- ⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.
- ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying,
“Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?
⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and
Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and
visitors from Rome,
¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own
tongues the mighty works of God.”
¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another,
“What does this mean?”
¹³ But others mocking said,
“They are filled with new wine.”



So....therefore....what now?

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Eventually, Jesus the Christ becomes the fulfillment of each and every one of the feasts in which God's redemptive work is revealed and celebrated.

In order for this to happen, His incarnation was absolutely necessary...

...and we want to throw a party for His birthday...

His coming as Emmanuel...

...**God with us!**

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So....therefore....what now?

- 1. Carve out space and time in your life, in our lives together, to acknowledge the provision of God, our dependence on Him, and our heartfelt gratefulness for all He has done.**
- 2. Reserve a portion of what He has blessed you with for the less fortunate and the foreigner.**

So....therefore....what now?

- 1. Carve out space and time in your life, in our lives together, to acknowledge the provision of God, our dependence on Him, and our heartfelt gratefulness for all He has done.**
- 2. Reserve a portion of what He has blessed you with for the less fortunate and the foreigner.**
- 3. Embrace the glory of being included in God's kingdom, the giving of instruction on how to live, and the power of the Holy Spirit to live it out.**

Christmas PARTY

God gives our bodies nourishment.

God gives our hearts nourishment.

God give our souls nourishment.



Christmas
PARTY

Christmas

PARTY





Christmas

PARTY



YOU'RE INVITED TO A

Christmas

PARTY

Every Sunday in December at 10am!

Jesus said,

”I AM the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the **light of life.**” (John 8:12)

Therefore.....

”You are the light of the world.

A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” (Matthew 5:14)

So...(as Paul wrote)

**“Do all things without grumbling or disputing,
that you may be blameless and innocent,
children of God without blemish
in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation,
among whom **you shine as light in the world,**
holding fast to the word of life,
so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that
I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (Philippians 2:14-16)**