

in heart and on fire for doing good works.” (Titus 2: 11-14).

St. John, “the apostle of love,” wrote about my “**Fraternal**” and “**Nocturnal**” sections like *this*:

“...the **darkness** is passing away, and the true light is now shining. He who says he is in the light, and hates his **brother**, is in **darkness** even until now. He who loves his **brother** stays in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his **brother** is in **darkness** and walks in **darkness**, and does not know where he is going, because the **darkness** has blinded his eyes.” (1 Jn. 2: 8-11).

We moved from where we lived for 22 years to another residence and have lived there for about 16 years. Since both residences are in the same area, BT allowed us to do a “stop and start;” keeping our same telephone number. Same phone; different home.

The Gift of Christmas provides a similar process, as seen in those words from Titus. It allows us to “keep the same phone”—*I am still me, and you are still you*. But we have moved house—now we can live in God and He in us! The world

was given so much by **The Gift of Christmas**. Global evidence shows that this Gift is desperately needed. We can go from racism to grace-ism. **THAT IS ESSENTIAL!**



IT RESPECTS MATERNAL AND PATERNAL

(This relates to mothers and fathers)

In the original Christmas story we see Jesus’ “**parents**,” Mary and Joseph. We also see Mary’s cousin Elisabeth and her husband, Zacharias. They were the **parents** of John the Baptist who was miraculously born some months before his cousin, Jesus. A week after Jesus’ birth, we meet **two elderly people**: Simeon and Anna. They were social and spiritual **support-parents** and were full of the glory of God.

The Christ of Christmas even cared for His mother as He hung on the Cross! The Ten Commandments’ “*Honour your father and mother*” still holds today. Jesus defended this Commandment from the evil neglect that was taking place. Yes, the first Christmas and the Christ of Christmas respected **godly parental influence**. *This* joins in **making Christmas essential**.



PATERNAL PRAISE AT CHRISTMAS! In one of the great scenes in the Biblical Christmas story, John the Baptist’s aged father excitedly declared God’s promises and purposes relating to the birth of his new miracle-son, John, and the soon-to-be-born Jesus, saying: “*That we might serve [God] without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.*” (Luke 1: 74, 75). In God’s eyes, **THAT IS ESSENTIAL!**

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CHRISTMAS -
NEW YEAR
2020-2021

The

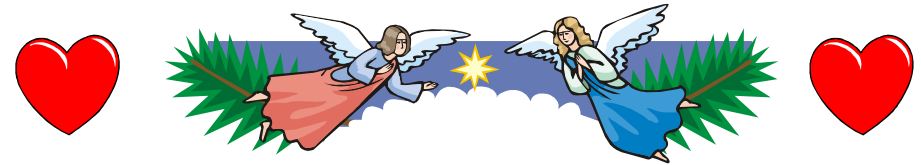
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“Lift up a standard for the people.” Isaiah 62:10

Gabriel L. Mancino - Editor. Printing in London since 1983
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CHRISTMAS IS ESSENTIAL!

Gabriel L.
Mancino



**CHRISTMAS IS ESSENTIAL
because**

ITS PLAN IS ETERNAL

The Bible calls Jesus Christ the sacrificial lamb of God “*from the foundation of the world.*” (Rev. 13:8). God’s plan was complete, perfect and planned at least from earth’s creation; likely from “eternity past.”

The universe is awesome! Yet, what was “Earth” like, *originally*,

(continued inside)

This Christmas time

I start with rhyme

*To list the things, with reason,
And make it clear for all to hear
The Wonder of this Season!*

*I'll try to tell to all that dwell
in London and the nation,
How God, in grace, to save our race
Sent Christ for our salvation!*

THERE IS HOPE!! “*Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be TO ALL PEOPLE. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’ ”* (Luke 2:10-14). **THAT IS ESSENTIAL!**

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with all of nature that we can see and enjoy! Many people like the seaside; walking barefoot; leaving their footprints in the sand.

“Footprints” is the name of a short poem that became a popular source of encouragement to others. Apparently, a dozen people have claimed to have written it! Some have even gone to court over it!

During the 4,000 years of Old Testament history, God made “footprints” for us to follow. Some of God’s “footprints” are the informative signposts God gave to us by prophets. The path was marked out well enough for the “wise men” from the East to understand and find their way to Bethlehem where God’s promised Saviour was to be born. (Matt. 2). What a pathway God proposed, provided and presents! It started from eternity and will take us to an eternal heaven if we follow like the wise men.

Still, like the argued authorship of the “Footprints” poem, people argue about 1) the idea that God made all things, and 2) that we humans needed to be rescued from sin, and 3) that God *supplied* that Rescue over 2,000 years ago at “Christmas.” Of course, God had planned and promised “Christmas” long before that first “Christmas!” It is Eternal...AND it is Essential!

**A Blessed & Happy Christmas
& Happy New Year 2021
To All Our Readers!**



ITS SOURCE IS SUPERNAL

“Supernal” in this case means “heavenly.” That may not mean much to some people. Yet, let’s consider a few things on this point. Apparently, the Bible tells of only two destinations in eternity: heaven and hell. **Consider a holiday**, all-expenses paid, in the most luxurious and/or restful place you can imagine. You could ask friends, tourist agencies or whoever. Even if that *were* to happen... *perhaps through winning a contest*... that grand holiday would eventually end. Eternity does not end.

When we consider the two terminating points, we recall that neither of the terminating points terminate. They are both endless... forever. No one would wish to remain in the one place. **No one would wish to leave the other.**

However, not only should we consider the *duration* of those two locations, we should consider the *surroundings* and *what happens there*. Many people have some idea of what the Bible says about these places, **but one thing is for sure:** “Christmas” makes the *heavenly*... the “Supernal”...possible, **AND** makes the *opposite* location possible to avoid forever! HALLELUJAH! **Christmas is Essential, indeed!**



IT CONQUERS THE INTERNAL AND THE EXTERNAL AND THE NOCTURNAL

“Nocturnal?!” This refers to **things of the night**. Things of the night now happen “in broad daylight.” Knife crime is a horrific example. Yet, much more “socially-acceptable” evil lurks and works “under the surface” in the human heart. Sin thrives in the darkness. Nothing but sin can send us to hell. “Christmas” provides for sin’s destruction. **THAT is essential!**

Yes, this world has problems, but most of them come directly as a result of sin. Jesus came to do “an inside job!” He can remove sin and darkness, and replace it with the holiness, light and truth of God! **Christmas is Essential** because it alone **Conquers this Nocturnal and Internal enemy.**

God has something to say about everything in our lives—**inside** and **outside**. Many people pattern their thinking and their “likes” in life after the ways of the secular world. For this reason St. John wrote:

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

(1 Jn. 2: 15-17).



IT BRIDGES THE FRATERNAL

“Fraternal” refers to brothers or to “brotherly” friendship between people or groups with the same interests or aims. **Christmas** enters the **Fraternal** arena and **Bridges** it. Why is that **essential**? Look around.

The world is full of racial unrest. Yet, much unrest happens within the same race; even in the same family. **Christmas supplies the answer; the cure. THAT is essential!**

The Bible records Christ’s birth in Matthew and Luke. Along with *those*, consider this insight from the Bible book of “Titus.” Remember, the angels said that the joyful good news of “*peace on earth*” was to be “*for all people.*” Listen to Titus:

“For the grace of God that brings salvation [to all men] has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present world, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might purchase and deliver us from all wickedness and make for Himself His own special people, cleansed

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