

"THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE"

Joshua 1:2 Fellowship

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Luke 23:33

About 2,000 years ago, the first Christmas tree was placed on a hill called "The place of a skull".

"They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha" (John 19:17).

It only had one light to begin with, and only one ornament: Jesus. No one understood the reason for that Christmas tree planted on "the place of a skull." The religious leaders and all who passed by this certain Christmas tree laughed, mocked, and spit at it.

"**And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One."** The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" Now there



was also an inscription above Him, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." "One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him,

saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us" (Luke 23:35-39).

As darkness fell on that hill, where the Christmas tree was, you could see **TWO** lights now! Jesus and a criminal that cried out to Jesus!

"And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom" (Luke 23:42).

Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23: 43).

What was the purpose and meaning of the first Christmas tree?

GOD GAVE US A GIFT



That gift is His Son Jesus Christ!

Jesus paid in full for the forgiveness of our sins and for our salvation on the first Christmas tree 2,000 years ago.

"**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**" (Romans 6:23).

The gift that God gives us (Jesus) cannot be bought or earned!

It is "the free gift of God" according to His Word.

Ephesians 2:8- "**For by grace you have been saved through Faith, and not of yourselves, is it the gift of God**"

At the cross where Jesus died, God has provided a free gift for the whole world! **Salvation!**

John 3:16 – "**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**"

Romans 10:13 – "**For whoever will call on the name of The Lord will be saved**".

YOU RECEIVE YOUR GIFT AT THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE - THE CROSS

You cannot get your free gift from God by going to another tree! You must go to The Cross!

John 14:6 – “**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”**

When all these people saw the first Christmas tree about 2,000 years ago, they did not see any beauty or value in it. Today, people who are lost view the tree in the same manner. They don't want Jesus! The rejecters of God's free gift are embracing a different tree for salvation. Not the cross of Christ.



Proverbs 14:12 describes this false tree for salvation,

“There is a way which seems right to a man, but it's end is the way of death.”

We need to call upon the name of Jesus for our salvation.

WHAT IS INSIDE THE GIFT?

Jesus is the gift that God gives us. Inside this gift are many benefits that God gives us through his Son Jesus.

Salvation, Forgiveness for our past, present, and future sins, A new life, His spiritual authority, Anointing, Power and freedom, Justification, Sanctification, Restoration, Fresh anointing, Eternal life, and much more!

In order to receive all of what God offers, you must receive His gift into your heart by Faith. When we do accept Jesus into our hearts we are born again and enter into his kingdom and become His children.

We become children of light walking a brand, new life, transformed by the power of The Holy Spirit who now lives in our hearts. Two thousand years ago there were only 2 lights on that tree upon the ‘Place of the Skull.’

Today, that Christmas tree has millions of lights on it. When you accept God's gift into your heart, He will put you as a light on that tree to attract attention of a lost world who has embraced a counterfeit tree.

Ephesians 5:8 – “**For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light**”.

Jesus said, “**While I am in the world, I am the light of the World**” (John 9:5).

The first Christmas tree reveals to a lost world the way of Salvation! The Word of God shows us the importance of born-again Christians being those lights!

Philippians 2:15 – “**so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.**”



The first Christmas tree was revealed to us
2,000 years ago!

The Cross of Jesus – His crucifixion

God gave us a gift: Jesus, our Savior

We must go to the Cross of Christ to receive our gift.

Jesus and the forgiveness of our sins and our salvation.

The Gift God gave us is full of many benefits.

Salvation, Healing, miracles, and much more!

Today as more souls are getting saved, God is adding more lights to that first Christmas tree.

Merry Christmas and thank God for giving us the first Christmas tree with a very special gift, Jesus!