

**Sermon: The Heart of Christmas**

**December 20, 2020**

**Scripture: Romans 8:31-39**

**I. \_\_\_\_\_ can ever separate us from God's love. Romans 8:31-39.**

**1. Fear comes when we feel abandoned. Romans 8:31-32; Roman 5:8 Colossians 3:1; Romans 8:33-34**

**2. We are more than conquerors when God provides the power to weather the storms of life. Philippians 4:13; 1 John 5:4-5 John 16:33 Romans 8:14-16; 28**

**II. Remember we are adopted meaning we have access to \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father. Galatians 4:4-7**

**1. The \_\_\_\_\_ reveals the presence of Christ in my life. (Rom. 8:14-16; Hebrews 4:16; Philippians 4:6-7**

**2. The first step to an intimate walk is to realize how much I am loved. by God. Rom. 5:5; John 3:16; Roman 5:8 1 John 4:9-10**

**3. The love of God is with us no matter what life may bring.**

**Thought for the Day** If there was ever a year when we needed the true hope, joy, love and peace of Christmas it is this year. Songs about Christmas are being sung, shopping is still happening even if it is online. Jesus is still being worshipped (even if it is online). We know it is not the same. People are living in fear, isolated from families. Many have lost their jobs, businesses have closed, schools have become virtual. The virus has taken some folks we know and love to glory. Others have lost loved one and this is their first Christmas without them. Still, it's not all been bad. There have been babies born and the quarantine has given parents the wonderful opportunity to watch their children grow up. Families have been blessed to be together. Yet, that is not the *true hope, joy, love and peace of Christmas*. That can be summed up in one name, Jesus. Jesus born of a virgin; his first cradle was a cattle troth. His birth announcement was brought by angels to humble shepherds. His life when from that cradle to a cross where He redeemed us from our sin. That's not the end of the story. After the cross comes the resurrection and one day he will return. The story will be from cradle to cross to crown. Today we need to remember our part in the story. Our part is to realize that because of grace we have access to God himself. The heart of Christmas is love. For God so loved the world that any who would believe would have everlasting life. No matter what our trial may be Jesus reminds us that He loves us, he'll never leave us and nothing can separate us from Him. That is the *true hope, joy, love and peace of Christmas*.

*Pastor Bruce*

**"What A Night"**

That night when in the Judean skies  
The mystic star dispensed its light,  
A blind man moved in his sleep  
And dreamed that he had sight.

That night when shepherds heard  
The song of hosts angelic choring near,  
A deaf man stirred in slumber's spell  
And dreamed that he could hear.

That night when o'er the new-born babe  
The tender Mary rose to lean,  
A loathsome leper smiled in sleep,  
And dreamed that he was clean.

That night when in the manger lay  
The Sanctified who came to save,  
A man moved in the sleep of death,

And dreamed there was no grave. —Selected<sup>1</sup>

Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times*  
(Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 661-662.

### "Remember"

He who is the Bread of Life, began his ministry hungering

He who is the Water of life ended his life thirsting

He who was weary is our true rest

He who paid tribute is the King of kings

He prayed, yet hears our prayer.

He wept, but dries our tears.

He was sold for thirty pieces of silver, yet redeemed us.

He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, but is the good  
shepherd.

He died and gave His life, and by dying destroyed death for all  
who believe. **Author Unknown**