**It’s Christmas: What Do You Really Need?**(Matt 1:18-2:12)

* What people want
* What people need

*4 Needs Christmas Satisfy:*

1. **You need salvation because physical rescue isn’t enough** (Matt 1:21)

 The real need is worse than everyone thinks.

 “*Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God*” (Rom 8:8).

2. **You need God with you because a religious idea won’t take you to where you need to be** (Matt 1:23).

Improvement plans → moral resolutions

Christianity → inner transformation

Unlike other personal improvement ideas, you don’t graduate away to independence but get better to the degree you become even more dependent on the Master teacher.

3. **You need to pay more careful attention to God’s Word, otherwise you won’t be ready for God’s ways** (Matt 2:1-2).

 If you don’t pay attention to God’s Word, He will find someone who will.

 If you don’t praise Him, He will give the privilege away to the rocks (Luke 19:40).

Your own plans and purposes, if allowed to take prominence in your life, will cause you to miss or even oppose God’s plans—and if deeply enough imbedded will cause you to object to God’s Word.

4. **You need to rest in your present situation, regardless of how vulnerable, because God overshadows your future** (Matt 2:3f).

 Things may be in a far better state than they look.

 Things may be worse than you ever know.

 Either way, your life is in His hands.

You need more than you know…

Only God can deliver on that!