Jesus the Reason for the Season

If we search the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation and not just the familiar passages we turn to at this time of the year, we will discover that Jesus is and always has been the central reality of God’s plan for the ages.

Gen. 3 – *Christmas Announced in Eden*

Three CRITICAL REALITIES we need to regularly remind ourselves of:

1. Our mess – vs. 1-7

- Our enemy, Satan – ‘the father of lies’ Jn. 8:44, ‘comes to steal, kill and destroy’…Jn. 10:10

-He tempts people to; DOUBT that God is good, DOUBT His word and question its authority and in so doing entices people to disobey.

-Through Adam’s disobedience, sin entered the world (Rom. 5:12-21) resulting in both physical and spiritual death for all humanity.

-*“All humanity is seen as guilty before Holy God and in slavery to sin” (Rom. 3:10-12, 23)*

-THIS IS THE REALITY OF ‘OUR MESS’.

2. His grace – vs. 8ff.

-Grace = giving us what we don’t deserve, underserved favour

-God was gracious in:

-how he came to them vs. 8

-how he called them vs. 9

-how he talked to them vs. 10-13

-how he dealt with them vs. 14 ff.

-Because he is Holy, just punishment for ‘our mess’ was delivered but mankind was not cursed!

-THIS IS THE REALITY OF ‘HIS GRACE’.

3. Our Hope – vs. 15

-Here it is, Christmas announced in Eden

-3 gifts given to offer hope:

1. Enmity between Satan and mankind

2. Enmity between the ungodly and the godly

3. **A DELIVERER PROMISED**

- The first Messianic prophecy

- The first announcement of the Christian gospel (*‘protoevangelium’)*

OUR MESS – HIS GRACE- JESUS OUR HOPE

-THIS IS THE REALITY OF OUR HOPE – *“our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness!”*