

# *If Christ Had Not Come*

Christmas Day 2016 now belongs to history, and Christmas week is winding down. My prayer for you is that this blessed holiday brought you the fellowship of family and friends, the joy of giving presents, the hope of the future reflected in the eyes of children and grandchildren and a peace that passes all understanding.

Above all, my wish is that your worship of Christ as we celebrate His birthday was very personal – more intimate than the corporate praise of church and yuletide public events you attended – affording an examination of your life and a recommitment to His lordship.

Christmas is not just an optional holiday on the calendar. It is a foundational event that undergirds all we are and believe. I like how Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, describes it in his book, *Turning Points*:

*If Christ had not come, our Bibles would be untrue, for the story of the Incarnation fills both the Old and New Testaments.*

*If Christ had not come, our God would be unknown, for Christ is the image of the invisible God, the Word made flesh. He is Immanuel – God with us.*

*If Christ had not come, our sins would be unforgiven. The chief purpose for Christ's being born in Bethlehem was to save us from our sins. His very name – Jesus – means "Jehovah saves!" John the Baptist called Him "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)!"*

*If Christ had not come, our prayers would be unanswered. Hebrews 4:15-16 says that since we do have a High Priest – namely Jesus – we can approach the throne of grace with boldness.*

*If Christ had not come, our hope would be unfounded. We'd have no future, no life, no heaven, and no eternity. No reunions with our loved ones. Nothing beyond the grave.*

*But now, we praise God! Christmas is real, and Jesus Christ is our hope of glory.*

Don't you rejoice in your soul as you reflect on Christmas, its reason and the message of Dr. Jeremiah?

I wouldn't want to live in a world with no Christmas.

*The Lord Jesus Christ, our hope (1 Timothy 1:1).*

– Beecher Hunter

