

Every season, I visit mom and dad's gravesite and I follow the same routine. I change the flowers, clean off the marker, whisper a few words, and take a picture to send to my brothers. Today was no different as Rod and I placed Christmas flowers on both of our parent's graves.

As I leave, I always take one parting look and I have to admit there is a tinge of sadness and sometimes a tear or two. I miss my mom and dad, especially during the holiday season. But I know that even though I visit the grave and whisper those few words, they are not really

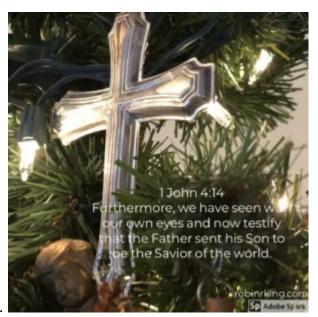


there.

To most of the world, Christmas is a time of Santa and gift giving. But Christmas is really about Christ. The true meaning of Christmas is that God sent his Son to be the Savior of the world by giving his life on the cross for our sins. Those who believe in Him and confess him as Savior and Lord will have eternal life.

It is because Jesus came that when I leave that grave, I don't have to be sad. I know that both mine and Rod's parents believed in Jesus Christ. I know that they trusted in Him as Savior, and when they closed their eyes in death, they opened them to His face. The grave





does not hold them.

As we rush about, decorating, cooking, and buying presents, it would be good for us to remember the real reason Jesus, the Lamb of God, came to this earth. If we truly believe in Him and truly believe in the good news of why he came, we will spend as much time preparing our hearts as we do our homes. Rather than scurrying here and there, we will slow down and focus on God's unfailing love for us. We will focus on praising the Holy One who saves us and we will share Him with others.

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John 3:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 10:9 New King James Version



(NKJV)

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

John 1:29 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

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