



*By Roberto Bruno*

Christmas is traditionally supposed to be a time of joy, peace, and love. If you look at Christmas cards, listen to the carols, or watch the old Christmas programs on TV, they are always full of joy, peace, and love. I don't know about you but I don't get much joy, peace, and love at the mall. People are in a hurry, stressed out; clerks are grouchy because of the pressure... Christmas is definitely an emotional time of year for many. It is a time of thinking back and reflecting on our childhood Christmas' or when we were young, innocent and happy. We know that the world we live in is empty. People at this time of year feel that missing piece in their lives. People are looking for wholeness, looking for satisfaction, to be complete. It is that anticipation for Christmas, they think once that day finally comes they will find joy, peace, and love. Possibly they'll find these things in the gifts or the visiting family members. Unfortunately there is no magic in the season.

Luke 2:10-11 says *"Then the angel said to them (The Sheppard's), "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord".* These sheppard's did not need to be convinced any further then what they saw because at that moment they were flooded with fear but also with joy. The joy that the Savior had finally come to deliver them from the Romans, their problems, and sin. There is no doubt that people today want peace. Peace in their homes, neighborhoods, and cities. True peace cannot be achieved without the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. *"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**".* Isaiah 9:6. Jesus is the only true source of peace and we know this because many of us have tried to find peace in other ways, in materialism, drugs, education...

The peace and joy that people are trying to find at Christmas can be obtained and experienced everyday in Jesus Christ. *"...and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus".* Philippians 4:7.

***Merry Christmas!***

