



A Painful Christmas Memory



No gratitude attitude.

A loss for the cost.

Fear the Peer.



We discover a life of meaning and purpose when we treasure easy-to-overlook moments. The life we desire isn't confined to rare, grand occasions, but uncovered by our attitude towards ordinary, everyday moments.



**“The danger is that of
coming to love the
prison.”**

CS Lewis

**A
Happy
Christmas
Memory**





**Value the person more
than the purchase.**

Live grateful.

Rest secure in God's love.

**All the busyness,
shopping, and ads
during Christmas
can dull our heart
and dilute our senses
to the astonishing
act of **God becoming
flesh.****



ADVENT

The Astonishing
Arrival of God



Advent is a powerful act of love, ushering in deliverance, salvation, and purpose for everyone; rejecting the subdued notion of Christmas merely as the birth of a cute baby Jesus.

ADVENT



A photograph of a stack of logs on a mound of sand. The logs are stacked horizontally and are supported by two vertical wooden posts. The mound of sand is in the foreground, and the background is a plain, light-colored wall.

What is "Advent"?


- It means "arrival" or "coming into place"
- It's marked by the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love



**“The angel said to them,
‘Don’t be afraid! I have good
news for you, a message that
will fill everyone with joy.’”**

Luke 2:10 // God’s Word Translation

ADVENT

A photograph of a stack of approximately ten wooden logs, bound together with a thin white string, resting on a mound of reddish-brown sand. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Good news ABOUT someone
points to them. When the
good news IS someone, they
are the substance.**

**Jesus IS the astonishing arrival
of God.**

Jesus IS the radical good news.
ADVENT

Essential Qualities of the Gospel

1. Redemptive (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13-14; Titus 2:14)

2. Righteous (Leviticus 26:12; Romans 4:23-24; Philippians 3:9; Romans 1:16-17)

3. Restorative (2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 1:19-20; 1 Peter 5:10; Acts 3:21; Revelation 21:5)

4. Riotous (Matthew 2:12, 16; John 11:45-54; Acts 9:23)

5. Revolutionary (Mark 16:17; Luke 10:17; Colossians 2:15; James 4:7; 1 John 4:4)

6. Replete (John 14:16-17; Ephesians 3:19, 5:18; Colossians 2:9-10)



A photograph of a stack of logs on a wooden stand in a desert landscape. The logs are stacked horizontally on a simple wooden frame. The background shows rolling sand dunes under a clear sky.

Redemptive:

Colossians 1:13-14, "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." NIV

A photograph of a stack of logs on a wooden stand in a desert landscape. The logs are stacked horizontally on a simple wooden frame. The background shows rolling sand dunes under a clear sky.

Redemptive:

John 8:34-35, "Jesus answered them, 'I can guarantee this truth: Whoever lives a sinful life is **a slave to sin**. A slave doesn't live in the home forever, but a son does. **So if the Son sets you free, you will be absolutely free.**"

A photograph of a stack of logs on a mound of earth. The logs are stacked horizontally and supported by two vertical wooden posts. The mound is made of reddish-brown soil. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Redemptive:

A redemptive gospel matters because it enables us to triumph over accusations and live genuinely, free from false, superficial identities.

A photograph of a stack of logs on a mound of sand. The logs are stacked horizontally and supported by two vertical wooden posts. The sand is a light brown color and is piled up around the base of the logs. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Righteous:

Romans 4:23-24, "And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded for our benefit, too, assuring us that **God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.**" NLT

A photograph of a stack of logs on a mound of sand. The logs are stacked horizontally and supported by two vertical wooden posts. The sand is a light brown color and is piled up around the base of the logs. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Righteous:

A righteous gospel matters because it authorizes us to live with moral authority, overcome condemnation, and pray with confidence.

A photograph of a stack of logs on a sand dune. The logs are stacked horizontally on two vertical wooden posts. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Restorative:

1 Peter 5:10, "And the God of **all grace**, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, **will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.**" NIV

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Restorative:

A restorative gospel matters because it replaces the effects of personal, generational, cultural, and systemic sin with fervor, wholeness, and prosperity to a person, family, community.

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I recommend:

- 1. Read Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2 and identify where you are in the story.**
- 2. Memorize one Advent verse this week and meditate on it.**

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