

CHRISTMAS WITH NO DOWNSIDE

THINGS THAT MAKE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

- ❖ **The Expectation (Hope)**
 - ◆ Anticipation was half the fun of childhood Christmas!
- ❖ **The Special Relationships**
 - ◆ Dating during Christmas - was added romance
- ❖ **The Giving**
 - ◆ As a parent - the joy of giving to my children

EVEN WITH ALL THE SPECIAL THINGS THERE IS A DOWNSIDE

- ❖ **Faded Expectations**
 - ◆ I really disliked the day after Christmas
 - ◆ For families that have hit hard times, foster children, kids in orphanages
- ❖ **Special Relationships that have changed**
 - ◆ The Christmas season without a special relationship can feel extra lonely
 - ◆ One of the constants about relationships - change
- ❖ **The Giving - certainly no downside here?**
 - ◆ As children get older gifts are not always appreciated
 - ◆ Some gifts come with strings attached
 - ◆ Some gifts actually benefit the giver not the recipient

WITH GOD THE FIRST CHRISTMAS HAD THE SAME SPECIAL ELEMENTS BUT NO DOWNSIDE *(Luke 2:8-14 NKJV)*

The Giving; Born to you a Savior, the true essence of a gift

- ◆ Jesus was a gift given to benefit us
- ◆ Jesus was a gift with no strings attached
- ◆ Jesus was a gift given not earned, loaned or offered as payback

The Special Relationship - peace, goodwill toward man

- ◆ Some have scoffed at the story due to lack of peace and goodwill in the earth
- ◆ Goodwill toward men not between men
- ◆ The wonderful thing is this relationship does not fade or go away - He never leaves or forsakes us

The Expectation/Hope - good news of great joy

- ◆ Our lives are marked by hope; God's gift gives us a special relationship that gives hope
- ◆ We have a constantly growing expectation
- ◆ Hope that extends beyond this life - Glory to God in the Highest means there is another realm