

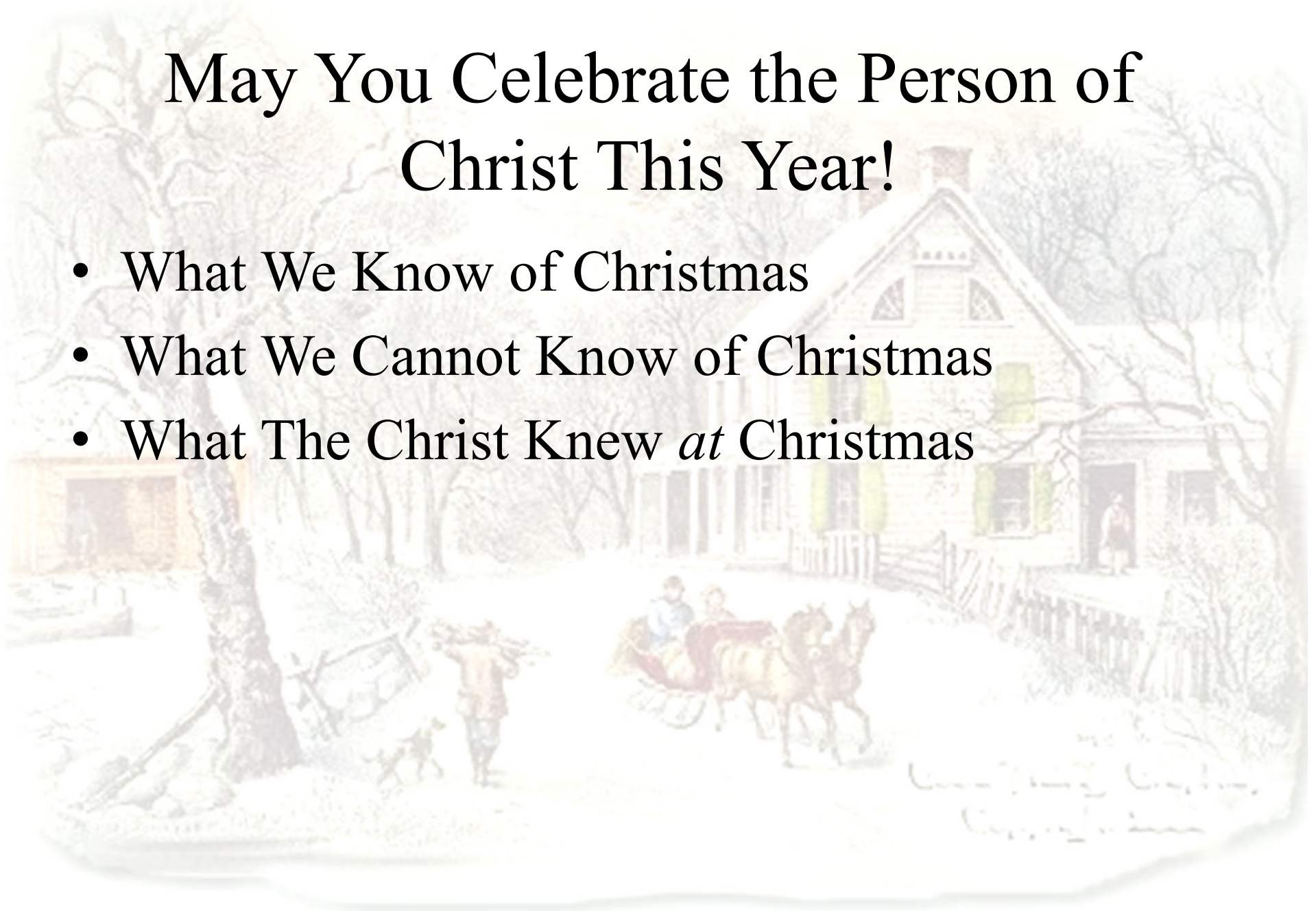


A Preston City Christmas Card

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May You Celebrate the Person of Christ This Year!

- What We Know of Christmas
- What We Cannot Know of Christmas
- What The Christ Knew *at* Christmas





What We Know

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A detailed illustration of a winter scene. In the background, a large, two-story house with a steep, snow-covered roof and two chimneys stands amidst bare trees. A path leads from the foreground towards the house. In the middle ground, a sleigh pulled by two brown horses carries two people. To the left, a man in a brown coat carries a bundle of wood on his back, followed by a small dog. The scene is set in a snowy landscape with a wooden fence and a large tree on the left. The overall tone is peaceful and nostalgic.

What We Cannot Know

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Can You Say, “I Don’t Know”?

We must train ourselves to say, “I don’t know
HOW this is true...but I know THAT it is true.”

God is: ONE GOD IN THREE PERSONS

Jesus Christ is: ONE PERSON WITH TWO
NATURES



What the Christ Knew



Christmas in Hebrews 10

- vv1-4: No PERFECTION through the works of the Mosaic Law, namely the Levitical Offerings
- v5: “Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says:
PSALM 40!
- This passage is a song of praise by David to the LORD.
- Whatever else we hear from the Lord Jesus Christ, we should notice that His thoughts are in praise of the Father.
- Jesus Christ praises the Father using the Word of God!
- He does the same thing as His last words on the Cross: “Into Your hand I deposit my spirit...”—quoted in Luke 23:46.
- Finishing Ps 31:5, “You have ransomed Me, O LORD, God of Truth”

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, “SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME; ⁶IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE.

⁷“THEN I SAID, ‘BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.’”

⁸ After saying above, “SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE in them” (which are offered according to the Law), ⁹ then He said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Psalm 40

For the Choir Director, of David, a Song

v1

I waited in hope in the extreme on the LORD

And then He bent down to me.

And then He listened to my cry.

v2

And then He made me ascend from the pit of wasteland (=SHEOL)
from the mud of clay

And then He caused to rise up upon a rock my feet; He established my
footsteps.

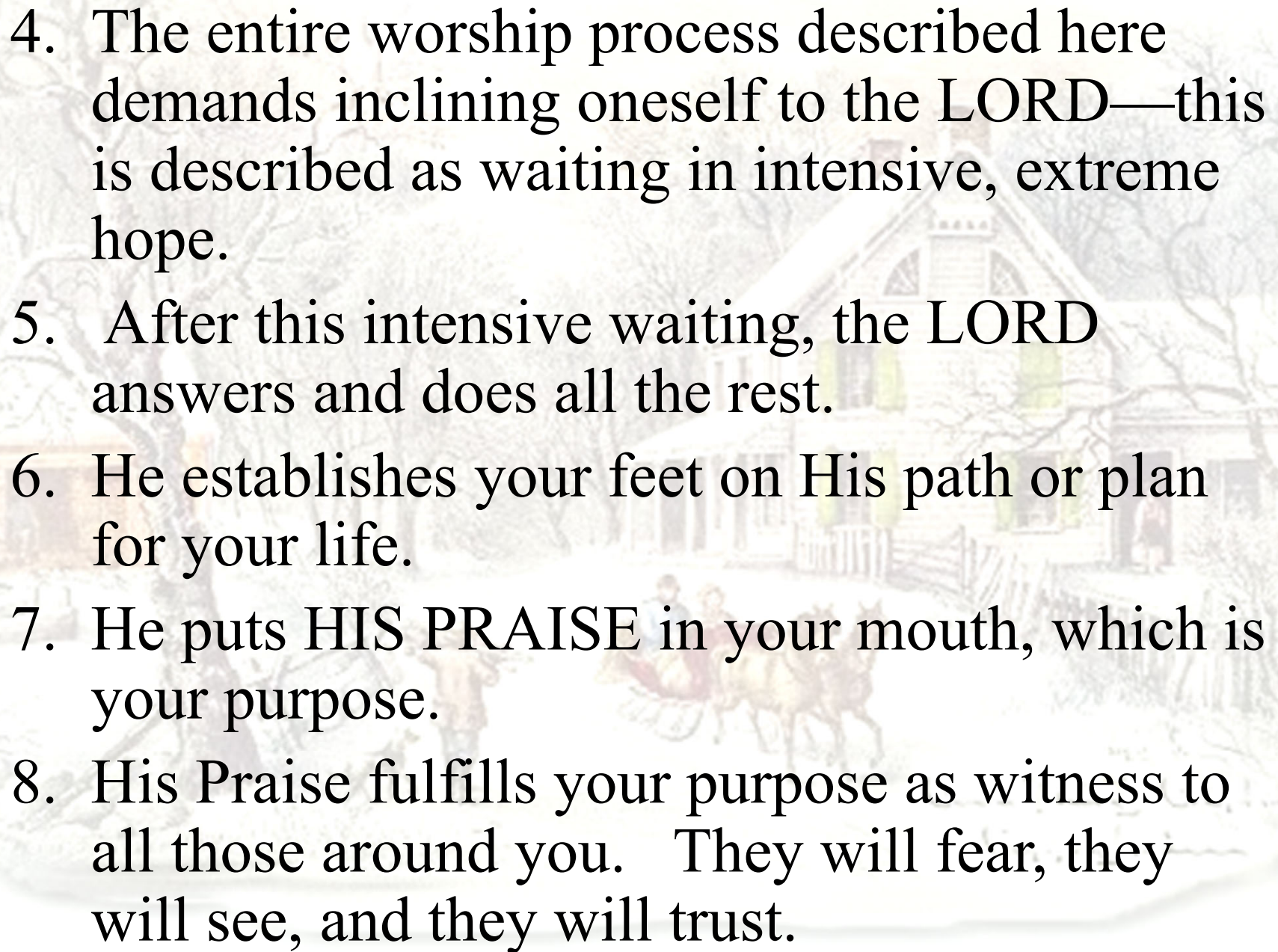
v3

And then He gave me in my mouth a new song, a song of praise to our
God

They will fear, many, and they will see, and they will trust in YHWH.

Psalm 40 For Christmas

1. This Psalm is a portrait of a mature believer's life of worship.
2. We should ask what Jesus Christ has in common with King David.
3. The answer is that both are in fellowship with God.
 - Both are living lives of worship
 - Both are engaging the LORD in praise

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4. The entire worship process described here demands inclining oneself to the LORD—this is described as waiting in intensive, extreme hope.
 5. After this intensive waiting, the LORD answers and does all the rest.
 6. He establishes your feet on His path or plan for your life.
 7. He puts HIS PRAISE in your mouth, which is your purpose.
 8. His Praise fulfills your purpose as witness to all those around you. They will fear, they will see, and they will trust.

v4

How happy is the young man who has set YHWH as his trust!
And he does not turn toward the arrogant ones or those who fall away
into lying!

v5

Many things you have done, YOU, YHWH my God,
Your wonders and your thoughts toward us--
They cannot be lined up and arrayed toward you!
I would declare and speak *them*;
But they would be too numerous to count!

v6

Sacrifice and offering you have not delighted in,
My ears you have dug-out for me
Whole burnt offering and sin offering you have not asked

v7

Then I said, "Behold, I come! In the Scroll of the Letter it is written
about me.

v8

In order to do Your pleasure, O my God, I delight.
And Your teaching (TORAH) *is* inside my guts (emotions)

Merry Christmas to You in v4

- v4: The alternatives are clear: set your trust on the LORD – or– walk in the darkness of arrogance and lies.
- True Happiness is available exclusively through setting your trust on the LORD.
- v5: God’s Grace comes to the forefront in considering His Works.
- These works of the past demonstrate His worthiness for our trust now and forever.
- v6: The works of the Law do not satisfy God; only God satisfies God. The Law portrayed how that could be
- vv6-8: Here we have the plan of God to satisfy His righteousness through the sacrifice of the righteous God-Man on the Cross.

Will You Imitate Jesus Christ in v8?

In order to do Your pleasure, O my God, I delight.

And Your teaching (TORAH) *is* inside my guts (emotions)

- What delights you?
- Is God's teaching inside you?
- The only way you are going to fulfill God's plan for your life is to be consistently saturated with His Word.