

Best Wishes!

Please accept without obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, politically correct, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the winter solstice yuletide holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all...

...and a financially successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2017, but with due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures or sects, and having regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform or dietary preferences of the wishee.

By accepting this greeting you are bound by the following terms, namely that this greeting:

- is subject to further clarification or withdrawal.
- is freely transferrable provided that no alteration shall be made to the original greeting and the proprietary rights of the wishor are acknowledged.
- implies no promise by the wishor to actually implement any of the wishes.
- may not be enforceable in certain jurisdictions and/or the restrictions herein may not be binding upon certain wishees in certain jurisdictions.
- is revocable at the sole discretion of the wishor.
- is warranted to perform as reasonably may be expected within the usual application of good tidings, for a period of one year or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first.

The wishor warrants this greeting only for the limited replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wishor.

Any references in this greeting to “the Lord,” “Father Christmas,” “Our Savior,” or any other festive figures, whether actual or fictitious, dead or alive, shall not imply any endorsement by or from them in respect of this greeting, and all proprietary rights in any referenced third party names and images are hereby acknowledged.

Coeexistence?

Are all world religious beliefs really coequal? Does it matter what you believe? Does your belief make it true? Imagine having to jump from an airplane that was about to crash. If you had three possible items to strap to your back, which would you choose: a tire, a briefcase full of money, or a parachute? There is only one right answer that can save your life. This is why all systems of belief are not equal. They each have differing ideas about God, but only one is true!



DECEMBER 23

ALWAYS BE READY

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and
always be ready to give a defense to everyone who
asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.*

1 PETER 3:15

When Martin Luther helped launch the German Reformation, he emphasized the wonder of the Incarnation; and from that heritage came many Old World celebrations that still yield an evocative Christmas. Many of our modern traditions hail from Germany. But when the Nazis took over in the 1930s, they tried to change that. In his book, *Hitler's Cross*, Erwin Lutzer wrote, "Since Germans had for centuries celebrated Christmas and Easter, Hitler had to reinterpret their meaning. Christmas was turned into a totally pagan festival.... Carols and Nativity plays were banned from the schools in 1938, and even the name Christmas was changed to Yuletide."⁴⁰

Lutzer points out that the same changes are happening today. In every age the devil wants to minimize the wonder of Christ, who came into the world to be our Redeemer and Savior.

We can't control a secular society, but in our own hearts we can sanctify Jesus as Lord. We can always be ready to give a reason to everyone who asks us about our Christmas hope and heritage.

By David Jeremiah in "The Upward Call" Devotional