

## Christmas is For **BAD BOYS** and **BAD GIRLS**

According to **modern legend**, Christmas is based upon **merit**, that is, what you do. The little jingle tells us, *“He’s making a list, checking it twice, gonna find out who’s naughty or nice...Santa Claus is coming to town. He knows when you’ve been bad or good...So be good for goodness sake!”* If you have been bad you won’t get any presents, or at the best, you’ll get a lump of coal in your stocking. The **world** tells us Christmas is for good boys and good girls.

The **Holy Bible** presents a different picture. It tells us Christmas is based upon **grace**: the **unmerited** favor of God. As a matter of fact, the Good Book teaches that God’s gift, which is Jesus Christ (John 3:16), is **especially for sinners**. *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief”* (1 Timothy 1:15). Jesus came into this world looking for bad people to save. *“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”* (Mark 2:17). Notice also, *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”* (Luke 19:10).

The truth that Christmas is for bad boys and girls is demonstrated by the fact that God **used some pretty bad people** in bringing his Son into this world. In the **genealogies** of Christ found in Matthew 1 and Luke 3, you will find the names of Judah, Tamar, Rahab, David and Bathsheba, Solomon, and Manasseh—people who were liars, adulterers, murderers, harlots, idolaters, and rebels. These people are a reflection of us, for **all** of us are sinners. *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). God takes **sinners**, forgives and saves them, and makes them into **saints**. The angel announcing the birth of Jesus said, *“Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21).

You don’t have to try to be bad on purpose - we are bad **naturally**. *“We are all as an unclean thing...there is none that doeth good, no, not one”* (Isaiah 64:6 and Romans 3:12). We are not to sin that grace may abound (Romans 6:1-2). We simply and sincerely need to repent and acknowledge our badness (sin), and then by faith trust Christ to save us. After God saves our soul, He begins to transform us into a **good person**, making us just like Jesus. *“Predestinate[d] to be conformed to the image of his Son”* (Romans 8:29). Have you personally received this gift that God gave to us that very first Christmas?

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