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SERVICES



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MERRY AND BRIGHT

Do you feel full of joy and hope this Christmas?

Children get excited at the coming of the season, family may be overjoyed with plans of getting together, and often we might feel a bit of a charge through experiencing their excitement but the chores we go through to provide all of this are often the very things that rob us from knowing the wonder for ourselves. Plan the party, trim the tree, max out the MasterCard, wrap, ship, take a trip. And that's assuming we aren't one of the multitudes who find themselves with a case of the Holiday blues.

So, how do we amidst all of the hustle and bustle find this Joy and Hope? Where does it come from?

Romans 15:13 says "May the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope" What kind of hope is he talking about?

Max Lucado describes it as this: "Hope is not what you'd expect; it is what you would never dream. It is a wild, improbable tale with a pinch-me-I'm-dreaming ending... Hope is not a granted wish or a favor performed; no, it is far greater than that. It is a zany, unpredictable dependence on a God who loves to surprise us out of our socks and be there in the flesh to see our reaction." Hope is powerful! Just as total darkness cannot hold back the light of a tiny flame, so does even the smallest increment of Hope provide joy and purpose. Jeremiah 29:11 says "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Christ came into this world to offer hope, joy and purpose - and it all began as a Christmas gift. Luke 2:10-11 says "But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."

This Christmas season may you be filled with unending hope and joy. May you be assured that Jesus Christ is here. That He is here to give us hope, to forgive our sins, to give us a new song, and to fill us with the thrill of Christmas.

