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“shall not perish . . .” (That we be not separated from God)

“but have everlasting life . . .”

This is the Christmas Story, my friends, for that is what “Christmas” means – “The Mass” (or sacrifice) of Christ. He came to die for us that we might live for Him.

In His Joy

Lewetta B. Bodey

★  
*From the Cradle*



*To the Cross*



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# THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Christmas Story is a well-loved tale. The Babe in the manger, born of a virgin mother, adored by shepherds, proclaimed as Savior and King, was surrounded by circumstances utterly unique at His Birth, throughout His lifetime and at His death. The amazing fact of His Presence here on this planet earth is astounding. How He came as a little baby has been repeated over and over again. That there was purpose in His coming is not so well known so let us hear it through the inspired words of John 3:16.

**“For God . . .”** The infinite eternal God has a Plan and a Purpose for this world and for every individual life.

**“so loved . . .”** These words are a divine glimpse into the heart of a Holy God Who is utterly *good*. We finite creatures, spoiled by sin, cannot comprehend the absolute purity of God. When *we* say someone is good, we are really saying an untruth for the goodness of any human being is a pitiful rag. “None is good, but God only,” said Jesus (Luke 18:19). Yet out of His Goodness and Purity pours His unending love, for He “so loved”

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**“the world . . .”** Invaded by sin, corrupt, spoiled, attacked by disease, cursed by death, the world of men and all nature is a sorry relic of the original beauty and perfection in which it was created. But God loves His creation, especially His creature Man *so much* . . .

**“That he gave . . .”** Can you imagine giving a precious jewel to someone who hates and rejects you? But God *gave to us* His most precious possession . . .

**“His Only Begotten Son . . .”** We have heard that Name, that designation so often that its true significance escapes us. Jesus Christ was *begotten of God* long, long before He came to this earth as a human infant. God’s Son is from all eternal ages, with no beginning and no ending – the offspring and express image of God – for *He is God*. The Bible makes this very clear.

**“that whosoever . . .”** That means everyone; that means anyone; that means all. No matter the past, no matter the sin, no matter how good we imagine ourselves to be, whosoever will can be restored to right relationship with God “by grace through faith” (Ephesians 2:8,9).

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