

98th – Bible Seeds Podcast

Published 12-24-2023 (Christmas Eve)

Intro Music – “Christmas Is For Children”

Hi my name is Carl Vasta and I would like to welcome you to the Bible Seeds section here, at Understanding God’s word. This is where I get to comment on biblical readings and stories that brings the bible into what’s happening to us in our daily lives.

Today’s Topic: Play This For Christmas Eve

This Sunday is Christmas Eve. A day for celebration not only by the children of the world, but by God’s children of FAITH! Remembering when our Father in Heaven reached down to us ordinary people and delivered a newborn baby named Jesus, His Son, and asked us to believe what He would say to us. “I am the resurrection and the life Whoever believes in me will live even though he dies; and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

(This is found in the book of JOHN, Chapter 11: verses 25-26)

To help you celebrate, I am including with this podcast my new Christmas CD. It has ten songs, three that are traditional such as **Bluegrass Jingle Bells, I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day, and Christmas Carols**, which is a medley of six popular Christmas Carols describing the events at the birth of Jesus!

For this CD, I wrote seven Christmas songs (words & music), and I made special arrangements for three the traditional Christmas songs. Each song was done with a different style of music: *ballad, gospel, bluegrass, bubble gum pop, dramatic, simple carols, comedic and “shades of drummer boy” and finished off with a slow rock version of “The Lord’s Prayer”*.

I played all the instruments from my synthesizer and sang all the vocals. You can download the whole CD and the Video at my website carlvasta.com and it's all FREE. It can be downloaded to your computer, or tablet and even your phone. All the videos have the lyric in full screen and I even have the friendly printer lyric and sheet music pages that you can download free.

The **first song** is a ballad I wrote and dedicated to my beloved wife and our children. It starts out with a recording I made of the first two of our four children opening presents with my wife on Christmas Day.

The song is titled **"Christmas Is For Children"** and brings back all the good memories of our younger days.

Among my favorites is this **second song is done in a gospel style**. I wrote it after seeing a man, all dressed up in pin-striped suit, a stylish hat and tie, standing on a street corner, waving a bible and shouting to the people in the cars passing by. I really wasn't close enough to hear what he was saying, but I'm sure he was giving them **"A Reason For The Season Sermon"** about **"If The Little Baby Jesus Hadn't Been Born"**.

The **third song** on this CD was written by the famous poet **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**, who lived from 1807 to 1882. He penned **"I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day"** in 1864, before the end of the Civil War. Five of the seven stanzas of his poem were set to music in 1872 by **John Baptiste Calkin**, a well renowned church organist who lived from 1827 to 1905. This is the version that I performed. There is a more recent version of the song that was written in the early 1950's by Johnny Marks. In my version, I use mostly bells with some strings and voices behind them which portrays a more dramatic image of this poem.

The **forth song** is the main title song from my CD. It's called **"It's Christmas"** which there probably is about a thousand songs titled *It's Christmas*. Too late to change it! But my song is about keeping Christmas in you heart; having compassion for people who are really struggling, making time for your own loved one and your children, encouraging good feelings and having a light sense of humor. It's almost a bubblegum pop song.

The **fifth song** came to me one holiday season, when Wall-Mart decided to stay open 24 hours a day, three weeks before Christmas. I was working in Palm Springs and finished my shift about 1:30am and I decided I'd stop off on the way home at a Wall-Mart and see who would be shopping at two or three o'clock in the morning for Christmas presents. I was amazed to find a couple of dozen people shopping and having a good time and even saw one shopper with her small children sleeping in the cart with some presents piled on top of them. I wrote this song for those nocturnal shoppers. It's called **"I'm Roaming Through Mall*Mart At Three In The Morning"**

My most popular downloaded song is my fun version **"Bluegrass Jingle Bells"** which is the **number sixth song** on my Christmas CD. It has been used as background music by many people for their you tube videos and other websites. In 2004, this was the **first mp3 of "Bluegrass Jingle Bells"** on the internet!

Number seven on this CD is a **medley of six popular Christmas Carols**, describing the events at the birth of Jesus, our savior! This is done simply with a nylon guitar and my voice. **1. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear** **2. The First Noel** **3. O Little Town Of Bethlehem** **4. Silent Night** **5. Away In A Manger** **6. We Three Kings.**

Song number eight has a lyric that starts – **“Christmas is a lonely child, searching for a home / People take him for a day, then they leave him alone.”** This song is about the best present anyone can receive for Christmas! It’s titled **“The Christmas Child”**

This next song: **number nine**, is a **Hanukkah-Christmas Song** titled **“Invitation”**. It’s a **Jewish song and a Christmas song** together. This song describes how people of the Jewish faith are waiting along with the Christians for the return of the Messiah !

Number ten on the **It’s Christmas CD** is another version of **“The Lord’s Prayer” (Jesus’ prayer to the Father)**. I put the sheet music on You Tube with a video ten years ago and to date it has 26 thousand views. The Midi is done as instrumental with a nylon string guitar and flute, in a meditative style.

This vocal version has had thousands of views and downloads from my own website for as many years as I’ve had a website and I am grateful to God for helping me bring this version to life.

The inspiration and the author of all the music we compose is the LORD GOD, He just allows us to put our name on it. Thank You Lord Jesus! [crv]

ENDING THE PROGRAM

This is your host Carl Vasta and I thank you for tuning in to Bible Seeds. I hope you enjoyed this Christmas offering and **“I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!”** If you would like to download the MP3’s, the single Videos or the whole It’s Christmas video, the sheet music or the lyric sheets, just go to www.carlvasta.com and right click on the Videos and MP3’s or print out the sheet music or lyric sheets.

This is your host Carl Vasta and I would like to remind you that new podcasts are released on Sundays at 12:30pm Pacific Coast Time.