

God sees it all. And no matter how much good we do, it doesn't wipe away the bad.

This sounds like a pretty hopeless, depressing Christmas message!

It's hardly 'Happy Christmas!'

But wait. Before you put this down, before you stop reading...there is some great news, some life-changing news that will radically improve your Christmas!

The solution found in the Bible is actually simple - stop trying to hide from God!

We can't fool God, so false confidence won't cut it with Him. We can't work on our good deeds to try to outweigh the bad we've done, so a list of our good behaviour won't help either.

The fact that we can't fix things with God by ourselves, means we desperately need someone else to step in and sort out the problem for us.

We need someone to make peace between God and us. Someone to get us off the naughty list for good!

The Bible tells us that there was only ever one person in history who was put on the nice list. Jesus.

He never did anything wrong, He had nothing to hide. He had a perfect relationship with God, and yet He offers to die in our place - to get us off the naughty list for ever.

Instead of us getting what we deserve for our actions, He took our punishment on Himself.

This amazing sacrifice, means Jesus can now be our "middle man", the one who can make peace between God and us.

He takes our badness, our sin, and in return we (although we don't deserve it) get His goodness, His sinlessness.

Jesus was born that first Christmas to die in the place of those on the naughty list - all of us.

All we have to do is accept His offer, and trust Him.

Wow! Talk about Christmas offers - this is the best deal ever!

So what about you?

If you haven't yet come to Jesus, and accepted His free Christmas gift of forgiveness, now is a brilliant time to do just that. All you need to do is ask.

This could be the greatest Christmas present you ever receive.

¹ Hebrews 4:13
² Hebrews 4:14-15

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NAUGHTY OR NICE

Which list are you on?

DAVE BUCKLEY

There's nothing like a good old Christmas sing-along. Here's one we all know:

**You'd better watch out, You'd better not cry,
You'd better not pout, I'm telling you why:
Santa Claus is coming to town!**

What a nice guy! Santa sounds like a bloke who'll cheer you up if you're sad; the kind of person who's good to have around. Isn't it great that he's coming to town?

**He's making a list, He's checking it twice,
He's gonna find out who's naughty or nice.
Santa Claus is coming to town!**

That's a bit weird. What kind of person makes lists of naughty people and nice people? Who does he think he is?

**He sees you when you're sleeping,
He knows when you're awake.
He knows when you've been bad or good,
So be good for goodness' sake!**

Now there's a threat if ever I've heard one! How scary is Santa Claus?! He sounds like some kind of stalker!



He sees you when you're sleeping.

He knows when you're awake.

**He knows when you've been bad or good,
So be good for goodness' sake!**

What if this song about Santa was true?

What if all our thoughts and actions really were under Santa's close observation? Would we end up on the naughty list, or the nice list?

There are loads of things we do and say and think that we're quite happy for other people to know about. We all have nice things to say, and we all do kind deeds to help others.

But if we are honest, we know there are also things we definitely would want to cover up and keep hidden.

Thank goodness Santa isn't making that list.

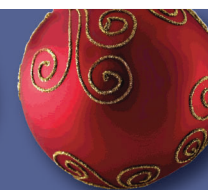
We wouldn't be getting presents this Christmas if he was!

Santa may not be real, but God is. He really does see it all - the good things we do, and the things we know we shouldn't do (the Bible calls this sin).

Have a look at these words from a book in the Bible called Hebrews:

'Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.'¹

Forget Santa. The Bible says that God sees everything in His creation, and nothing is hidden from His sight.



None of the things we've done, said, or thought are hidden from Him.

Even if we're good at hiding the dodgier bits of our lives from the people around us, we can't hide them from God.

God is the one who made everything, sees everything, and records everything.

God is the one to whom we must give an account of our lives.

We can't hide anything from God.

When the Bible says that nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight, it means **nothing**.

Everything is exposed before the eyes of God (even our thoughts and attitudes)² - and we are answerable to Him.

If there is a naughty and a nice list, and God has seen all of our lives, then the Bible tells us that we are all on the naughty list!

We may have done some lovely, kind and good things in our lives, but we've also done some horrible, unkind and bad things too.

So what should we do? How do we get off the naughty list?

The song says, "Be good for goodness' sake!" Is that the answer? That might work with Santa, but it doesn't work with God.