

multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

From this account, we see that CHRIST’S BIRTH is all about Him. Sadly, man has made Christmas a money-centered, heathen holiday giving only token acknowledgement of Jesus Christ. Yet, the Word of God still bears witness to His birth, life, death and resurrection. Even time worldwide is measured from His birth. Man cannot deny Him.

Jesus wrapped Himself in swaddling clothes –

This Baby was the eternal Son of God in human form, conceived by the Holy Ghost in a virgin’s womb. “They shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” [Mt. 1:23]. God Himself came to His creature man to do what no one else could do – to save perishing sinners. God is not “willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” [II Peter 3:9]. Therefore, JESUS is the reason for the season.

Jesus came into a sin-darkened world –

Jesus entered a world that hated Him. “They hated me without a cause” [John 17:25]. Herod tried to kill the young child, “the world knew him not” [Jn. 1:10] and his own Jewish people “received him not” [John 1:11]. They all conspired to destroy God’s only begotten Son, because He was the Light and they were in darkness. The reason was SIN, their sin, and that includes your sin, and my sin. Here is God’s verdict on mankind. “The whole world lieth in wickedness” [I John 5:19]. Today, man’s wickedness is abounding, and soon sinners will not escape from God’s fiery wrath.

“For *there* is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.” [Eccles. 7:20] “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it” [Jeremiah 17:9]?

“For we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one” [Romans 3:9-12]. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” [Romans 3:23].

YOU, friend, are steeped in your sin, saturated by your sin, and lost in your sin just like the sinners in Jesus’ day. He told them twice directly, “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” [Luke 13:3, 5]. He warned them, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” [Matthew 10:28]. The message is, “Turn or burn!”

Jesus came to take away sin and fear –

As the glory of God lightened the night around the fear-filled shepherds the angel proclaimed, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings (*news*) of great joy, which shall be to all people.” The Bible says that “fear hath torment” [I John 4:18]. Man’s sin is the reason for fear and the lack of peace.

We have all inherited the sin-nature from Adam and are destined to die because of our sin. “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death

passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” “The wages of sin is death” [Romans 5:12, 6:23]. Death means hell for the sinner. That is why man has always had an inborn fear of death. Unforgiven sin leads to death and hell. Christmas was God’s answer to man’s need of forgiveness of sin. That is why the heavenly host praised God saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” [Luke 2:14]. God was reaching out.

The Son of God came into the world to “destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” [Hebrews 2:15]. Forgiveness of sin takes away fear of death and gives expectation for a home in Heaven. Paul wrote, “We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” [II Corinthians 5:8]. Christmas brings this hope to mankind.

Jesus came in love to be a Saviour –

From Bethlehem’s manger to the age of 33 years Jesus stood apart from all men. He “did no sin” and He “knew no sin” [I Peter 2:22, II Corinthians 5:21]. He was the sinless Lamb of God; the only hope for a sin-darkened world.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” The Old Testament prophesied of His coming in Isaiah 9:2; “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” Jesus is the Light of the world and that light began to shine Christmas day, and it shone on the

lonely road to Calvary where God's Son hung on a wooden cross, His precious blood poured out, paying for the sin of a lost and dying world. "In whom we have redemption through (*faith in*) his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins" [Colossians 1:14]. Christmas is all about Christ: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" [I Timothy 1:15].

"Joy to the World! the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And heav'n and nature sing."

The God-Man came for one purpose only; "to save his people from their sins" [Matthew 1:21]. The babe in the manger came to seek and to save YOU. To do that He had to exchange His swaddling clothes for a lonely cross and grave clothes. He was born to die. "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again on the third day according to the scriptures" [I Corinthians 15:3, 4]. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" [John 3:16]. Jesus saves!

When Jesus came before John the Baptist the prophet proclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" [John 1:29]. Jesus said Himself, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" [Luke 19:10].

**Jesus brings peace and good will to man –
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward men."**

Are YOU saved? Have you availed yourself of God's good will and prepared Him room in your heart? If not, why not? There is no perfect peace without Christ dwelling in your heart. "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked" [Isaiah 57:21].

Christmas brought the Prince of Peace to mankind. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." [Isaiah 9:6] He purchased your pardon on the cross by bearing your sin, shedding His blood and dying in your place. His resurrection guarantees a full and finished salvation to "whosoever will." That is God's "good will."

Do you want peace with God? Then accept the Prince of Peace as your Saviour today. Jesus invites you; "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heaven laden, and I will give you rest" [Matthew 11:28]. Rest brings peace. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" [John 14:27].

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things" [Romans 10:15]! "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks (*Gentiles*), repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" [Acts 20:21]. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall (*not may*) be saved" [Romans 10:13]. That is God's promise!

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The Meaning of Christmas

It is ALL about the Lord Jesus Christ



Many of us think back to happy days with our families at Christmas. With the lights and trees and presents they were some of our happiest times as children. We remember the Christmas carols and Mom's cooking as we gathered around the table. But Christmas means much more than childhood memories.

Here is the Christmas story as it is told in Luke Chapter 2, verses 7 to 14.

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a