

“Christmas Is About Salvation”
The Meaning of Christmas — Part 2
Luke 2:11-12

Christmas is a birthday celebration!

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” Luke 2:8-10

1. In Christmas we celebrate **God’s love**.
2. In Christmas we celebrate **God’s presence**.
3. In Christmas we celebrate **God’s favor**.

The second meaning of Christmas comes from the angel’s message.

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
Luke 2:11-12

Christmas is about salvation!

The angel gave:

- Detailed information about the arrival of the Messiah.
 - Specific information leading to His location.
 - Specific information about why He came.
 - Specific information about for whom He came.
 - Specific information as to His identity.
- **Today**—The wait is over.
 - **In the city of David**—the shepherds would have recognized this as Bethlehem, the home of their hero, but most people would have called Jerusalem the city of David.

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”
Micah 5:2

- **A Savior**—The fact that God sent a savior to this earth means that we needed one!

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph

son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:18-21

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:28-33

Jesus means savior or rescuer!

- **Born to you**—you in the Greek is plural. **Jesus was born for all humanity!**
- **Christ the Lord**—Christ the Lord essentially means Messiah God.

1. Saved from my sins.

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! ...

Romans 7:24-25

...“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.”

Romans 3:10-11

...There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:22-24

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7

2. Saved for a purpose.

God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our

Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus ...

Hebrews 3:1

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9

3. Saved by God's grace.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Application: Christmas is about salvation! God provided the very thing we need to have a relationship with Him. Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior? If you haven't will you accept Him today? If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, don't forget to celebrate your gift of salvation this Christmas.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11