

IV. CHRIST, THE SAVIOR: Luke 2:1-20

INTRODUCTION. Why do we celebrate Christmas? We celebrate Christmas because it is the story of how the Serpent-Crusher and Nation-Blesser came into the world as a man in order to, in time and space, crush the serpent's head and bless all the nations of the earth by His death and resurrection.

CONTEXT. The birth narrative of Jesus Christ.

DOCTRINE. The Christmas story is real, good news for sinners, and practical for your everyday life.

OUTLINE.

- I. The Christmas story is real.
- II. The Christmas story is good news for sinners.
- III. The Christmas story is practical for your everyday life.

I. THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS REAL (Luke 2:1-7).

QUESTION. What is the Christmas story?

ANSWER. The Christmas story is that God became man in order to save His people from their sins. **1 Timothy 1:15** "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"

Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus Christ

"1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

- **C.S. LEWIS:** "I have been reading poems, romances, vision literature, legends, and myths all my life. I know what they are like. I know none of them are like this. Of this text, there are only two possible views. Either this is reportage...or else, some unknown writer...without known predecessors or successors, suddenly anticipated the whole technique of modern novelistic, realistic narrative.... The reader who doesn't see this

has simply not learned how to read." – C.S. Lewis, *Christian Reflections*
BOYS AND GIRLS...

II. THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS GOOD NEWS FOR SINNERS (Luke 2:8-14).

Luke 2:8-14

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news. . .'

I) The Christmas Story is good news because **it produces great joy for all who believe on Christ.**

Luke 2:10b "of great joy"

RQ. What could you possibly need to make you happier, Christian?

- (i) You have provided righteousness.
- (ii) You have purchased forgiveness.
- (iii) You have promised power, protection, and eternal provision.
 - **If God had said**, "Some things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose" then you could have room to say you need more to be happy in Christ. But He said, "All things."
- **UNBELIEVERS**, come to the fountain of joy in Christ Jesus and drink deeply by faith. Everything you need for everlasting happiness is found in Christ and in Christ alone.

There is not other stream, and there is plenty of water here for everyone who comes thirsty to drink!

II) The Christmas Story is good news because **it is not for the healthy, wealthy, and successful alone, but for all people.**

Luke 2:10c "that will be for all the people."

- **The only kind of people Christ excludes are those who think they do need Him.** "I did not come for the healthy, but for the sick."

III) The Christmas Story is good news because **it is a story of gracious giving and merciful substitution.**

Luke 2:11a "For unto you is born this day. . ."

- - **Isaiah 9:6** For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;"

BOYS AND GIRLS if and when you get or give presents this Christmas, you should

think of God the Father giving His only Son to sinners like you and me so that we would be saved.

IV) The Christmas Story is good news because it fulfills all those promises God had been making from the beginning.

Luke 2:11b "in the city of David. . ."

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- **Micah 5:2** "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days."

V) The Christmas Story is good news because it reveals the Savior we all desperately need.

Luke 2:11c "a Savior,"

Christmas is not about a role model or self-help expert being born to help you become a better you as He leads you on a path of enlightenment; Christmas is about a SAVIOR BEING GIVEN TO SINNERS TO MAKE PEACE BETWEEN THEM AND GOD BY THE BLOOD OF HIS CROSS!

You and I must not separate the hay of the manger from the blood of the cross.

Jesus was born to die. He knew it. Mary knew it. The whole of Scripture had been screaming it. The sins of the world had been crying out for it, Jesus spilt it, for you and for me, believer! Hallelujah! WE HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN SIMPLY AN EXAMPLE; WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A BLEEDING SAVIOR!

VI) The Christmas Story is good news because it reveals the Christ the nations long for.

Luke 2:11d "who is Christ"

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- **Haggai 2:7 (KJV)** "And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts."
 - **John 12:20-21** "20 Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. 21 So these came. . .and asked. . .'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.'"

VII) The Christmas Story is good news because it reveals the just and

kind King.

Luke 2:11e "the Lord."

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– **Isaiah 9:6b-7**

"6b and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

VIII) The Christmas Story is good news because it glorifies God.

Luke 2:12-14a "12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 'Glory to God in the highest,"

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– **Isaiah 43:6-8**

"6 I will say to the north, Give up,
and to the south, Do not withhold;
bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the end of the earth,
7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

IX) The Christmas Story is good news because it produces peace on earth.

Luke 2:14b "and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

- I) Peace with God.
- II) Peace with man.
- III) Peace with yourself.

– **HEIDELBERG 1**

"My only comfort in life and in death is
That I am not my own, 1
but belong with body and soul,
both in life and in death, 2

to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. 3
He has fully paid for all my sins
with his precious blood, 4
and has set me free
from all the power of the devil. 5
He also preserves me in such a way 6
that without the will of my heavenly Father
not a hair can fall from my head; 7
indeed, all things must work together
for my salvation. 8
Therefore, by his Holy Spirit
he also assures me
of eternal life 9
and makes me heartily willing and ready
from now on to live for him. 10"

III. THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS PRACTICAL FOR YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE (Luke 2:15-20).

QUESTION. What do I do with this message of Christ being born to be the Savior, Christ, and Lord?

ANSWER. Let me just give you SIX directions, using the Shepherds and Mary as our examples:

I) Go to Jesus Christ straightaway.

Luke 2:15-16 "15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go over (straightaway) to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.' 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger."

No one ever ultimately lost anything but sin, sorrow, sadness, and eternal suffering who went to Christ for salvation.

It will cost you, as far as this world is concerned to go to Christ in faith, but Christ pays far more than He takes.

Christ gives all who turn from sin to trust in Him righteousness, forgiveness, joy, and eternal life!

II) Tell others about Christ and His salvation.

Luke 2:17-18 "17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them."

What God has made known to you, make known to others!

III) Treasure up the message of Christ and His salvation in your heart by holy meditation.

Luke 2:19 "But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart."

IV) Labor to glorify God in your ordinary vocation with your hands to the plow and His glories and praises on your lips.

Luke 2:20a "And the shepherds returned,"

- **POOLE:** "*The shepherds return*, that is, to the care of their flocks. Religion gives none a discharge from their secular duties: the disciples had a special call and command, that left their nets, and their parents, and followed Christ. The shepherds were only made occasional preachers; they return."

You who are laboring in a lawful vocation—whether inside or outside the home—work heartily as for the Lord and not for men.

You do not need to be a pastor or deacon or missionary to glorify the Lord.

You only need to be faithful where you are. Keep your hands to the plow and the glories and praises of Christ on your lips.

V) Glorify God by praising His name for sending His Son into the world to save sinners.

Luke 2:20b "glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen,"

VI) Entrust yourself to the Word of God, revealed for you in the Scriptures, knowing every word of the Lord proves true.

Luke 2:20c "as it had been told them."