

THE 2020 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we look back over the years, our minds are flooded with the memories we all have of Christmas. Certain things stir us deeply—maybe your mother’s cooking, maybe gathering around a fireside, maybe as a family preparing the Christmas tree, and Christmas morning with everyone opening gifts—all that is well and good, but Christmas means more. It is more than gifts and goodwill, it is more than toys and tinsel and trees, bright lights and big family gatherings. In some ways Christmas 2020 will be totally different because of the pandemic which brings a new awareness of disease, danger, and depression many experienced. Christmas will be very hard for those whose family and friends’ circle has been broken because of the loss of someone we love. So just maybe, we need the Christmas good news given by the angels to the simple shepherds as never before.

*“I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone!
The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born ...”
Luke 2:10-11 Living Bible*

Years ago while I lived in Scotland, I was once asked to address hundreds of Scottish secondary school students at Christmas. I prayed and decided to focus on the Biblical words *“For unto you is born ... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11, KJV)*, and I simply pointed out that the ultimate meaning of Christmas was the message of hope, and joy and love all focused on Jesus, as the Savior. Christmas is all about the loving remembrance of the birth of the Savior, and I said to those Scottish students, “Focus on the word Savior—a savior is someone who does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.”

Today, all of us must rethink that—Jesus Christ was sent to accomplish something that could not be done any other way—save us! Christmas is about salvation and being received by God; that is the good news.

So then, over two thousand years ago, a very special event occurred. A young, Jewish maiden went through the experience countless women have known, giving birth to a child. But this was no ordinary child that was born—this was the unique Son of God sent from heaven to be our Savior. **(Matthew 1:21)** The birth was a miracle with a message. In Jesus, God had come to rescue us. He came to save us from ourselves and from our sins, which includes our failure ridden life, our sordid past, and our future that often appears hopeless.

Reading the Christmas event in the Bible shows us people as corrupt and wicked as any people today. Jesus came into a world of confusion, complicated by evil men filled with pride and self-centeredness; yes, with so many of the problems we have in our world. People said, “Me first, I want no one to question that!” The world of that time was so similar to the problems we have in our day, and most certainly the people of that day were no different than those living all around us now.

So let me emphasize, with all our Christmas activity we must not forget that the single most wonderful part of Christmas is the fact God came to us in the person of Jesus Christ. God invaded our world. God became a flesh-and-blood person for a reason—to speak our language, to show us His love in a way we could understand, in order to save us from our sins.

That is the heart of the Christmas message.

When you open the pages of Scripture, you realize the promises speak about it, the prophets wrote about it, the psalmists sang about it, the angels announced about it. And the apostles were sure of it and they gave their lives for it. The New Testament is filled with this one great message.

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It all focused on Jesus Christ coming in the flesh and invading a dark and hopeless world. But again, God did that sending Jesus Christ in flesh to identify Himself with us, sinful and fallen men and women. It is the most significant fact of history.

Now, never lose the marvel of it—the God of the universe coming down from heaven and taking on human form! It's utterly amazing!

So, let's say it this way: If you want to know what God is like, study Jesus. If you want to know what God says to us, listen to Jesus. If you want to know God personally, welcome Jesus personally into your life.

Here is a verse from John's gospel, **“the Word was God ... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:1, 14)**. And to us He says now what He said to the disciples long ago; Jesus said, **“you believe in God, believe also in me.” (John 14:1)**

There is a logical progression that makes it easy to follow and the conclusion inevitable. If we believe in God, we believe in what God said, and if we believe in what God said, we believe in whom God sent, and if we believe in whom God sent, we believe in Jesus Christ to be our personal Savior. But, Jesus said we must personally believe Him by faith.

And some reading these words may find it hard to believe in God. If you do, I strongly advise you to simply go to this person named Jesus Christ and come honestly to Him and humbly come as one wanting to meet God. Before Jesus Christ, let God reveal Himself to you and make God real to you. Jesus is God's answer to life's most difficult questions.


And think about God coming to us—God did not remain at a distance somewhere in heaven; He came into this world in flesh and blood. He did not speak to us from the sky, **“the Word became flesh”** and

He said, "Come to me" as He "dwelt among us." He did not come in a flash of light and hurry back to heaven again. He stayed in the world into which He came and ate with us, and walked with us and even wept with us. When He was challenged how to find God, He said, "Come and see." He invited us! He was called a friend of people who sin, like you and I have. And He upset some religious people of His day by being born in a stable, working as a carpenter, by touching people with diseases and forgiving a prostitute. Then watch Him, He was made like us, flesh and blood, that He might die for us.

So Jesus comes at Christmas and assumes our nature and then in life, this sinless person assumes our guilt, sins, and transgressions; He takes our condemnation and our death. And He comes to us to die for us so that we can come to Him in order that we might go to Him.

Now the question at Christmas is, do we simply study Him or, like the wise men, worship Him? Do we stand far back and only admire Him or bow before Him? All this is the center of Christmas—Jesus Christ. There must be a moment of sincerity when you say to Jesus, "I want You, to know You personally." So I ask you, is He that real to you? Have you ever said to Him, "Just as You were born in this world, be born in my heart"? Say to Him, "Like with the innkeeper, whose eyes were opened, once there was no room for You, now You have the best room"—so say, "Welcome, live in my heart, take up residence in my life."

To each of you, please make sure at this Christmas you make sure of your forgiveness and your salvation by responding to Jesus. Be honest with Him, tell Him you have sinned and need a Savior and ask Him to be your Savior and come into your life and be your Savior and your Lord forever.



It is the greatest news ever announced, and it is for you and me and everyone. The Savior has been born in the world that He can be born in our heart.

“O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.”