

Joyful News

Christmas Day Sermon – December 25, 2022

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:1-7 and Luke 2:1-19

Golden Verse: *“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”* Luke 2:10-11

There are important questions in life that we need to ask and we have to have the correct answer.

- Is there a God?
- How can I know Him?
- Is there life after death?
- Do heaven and hell exist?
- If so, where will I go when I die?
- How can I know for certain that I’m right about the answers to these questions?

All these important questions lead to a crucial question that sooner or later every person must answer. It would be better to find out the answer to these questions before we die and before we might stand at the judgment throne. For those who wait to answer it until the judgment, it will be too late.

On this Christmas Day, the question you must answer and respond to yourself correctly is: Who is Jesus Christ for you?

The correct response to this question will answer all of the questions I just asked:

- Is there a God? *Jesus came to reveal the Father to us.*
- How can I know Him? *You can only know God through His Son Jesus Christ.*
- Is there life after death? *Jesus tells us authoritatively how to go to heaven and avoid hell.*

Somebody could ask:

- How can we know for certain that we are right about the answers to these questions?
- Are the accounts about Jesus and His claims true or false?
- Is there adequate evidence to believe these accounts?

On the very first Christmas night, when the angel appeared to the shepherds, they were terrified, because they thought, that God was coming to judge the living and the dead.

In history, we see that, when godly people encountered God or His holy angels, their only response was FEAR.

When God appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai, the mountain shook and there were lightning flashes, thunder, a thick cloud, and the sound of a loud trumpet. The people were so afraid that they dared not come near the mountain.

When Isaiah saw God through a vision, he cried out, *“Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty”* Isaiah. 6:5.

If God would reveal Himself, showing us His glory, we would be terrified. The Bible says that when Jesus Christ will come back to judge the living and the dead, the whole earth will cry. The unbelievers will cry because they will be terrified that they lived their lives without Christ. The believers will cry from joy that their Lord is back and they can go with Him.

On Christmas, Jesus Christ came to us as a newborn baby, bringing us joy and peace.

Today we have this great opportunity to humble ourselves before His cradle and to worship Him, who lived amongst us as a human being.

The news shared by the angel about the Saviour brings great joy because it is news of Christ the Lord.

He is a unique Person.

He is the Christ. Christ is Greek for “anointed one”. In Hebrew His name is Messiah. It means that God the Father sent and anointed Jesus for His mission of salvation. He was anointed as prophet to preach the gospel, as priest to offer sacrifice for sins, and as king to reign. He alone is able to reconcile sinful people to God through His life, His sacrificial death and His resurrection.

He is Christ the Lord. The Saviour born in Bethlehem is God in human flesh. If He had been only a man, He could not have saved us, because humans are sinful. If He had been an angel, He could not experience our human struggles. But He was Christ the Lord, and He was able to deal with the problem of our sins.

He is a human. He was born in Bethlehem. He did not descend from the sky. He was conceived miraculously in Mary's womb and went through the stages of development just like any human baby. As a man, the representative Man, He could bear the sins of the human race.

As God in human flesh, Jesus Christ is unique in all the world. He alone qualifies to be the Saviour of the world. If you doubt the uniqueness of Jesus, I invite you to read the gospel accounts with the prayer, "God, if Jesus is God in human flesh, reveal that to me and I will believe and obey You." He can be nothing other than fully God and fully man united in one person. That makes the news He brings good news of a great joy.

The news about the Saviour brings great joy because it is for all people.

The angel said that this news was not just for the shepherds, but for "all the people". Jesus came to save you and me and all of us. He died for you and me to pay for all my mistakes and your mistakes. This is how He can give us grace, purity and eternal life. I am so happy to know that I don't have to take the punishment for my mistakes, because Jesus came to pay for all of it and He took them away.

If I would not embrace the Saviour tonight, one day, after I die, I would be called to pay for all my sin. But since I embrace Jesus Christ and I keep Him in my heart, I know I am forgiven. I am saved by the Saviour. All those, including you, who receive Christ the Saviour in their hearts are forgiven and saved.

It is a fact of history that this good news applies to all of us and even today can transform all who believe in Christ Jesus. There are many Christians who would share their own stories about how Jesus Christ transformed their lives and gave them real joy, and a new purpose of life.

Once I read about a skeptical person who was on an island, watching a tribe worshipping and praying. This skeptic was mocking Christianity and the Christian faith. A local tribesman said to him, "If the missionaries had not brought us the gospel of Jesus and we had not believed, we would have eaten you for dinner by now!"

At this Christmas, please allow Christ, the Saviour, to transform your heart. I pray that He should transform mine as well – again. Amen