

Christmas Service – Luke 2:1-20 - Sunday, December 20th, 2009

Luke 2:1-20 1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into 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 wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. (NKJV)

- This year I decided to approach Christmas a little differently than in years past. One reason is; this could be our last Christmas on earth.
- I certainly don't want to bring gloom and doom to your Holiday cheer I just happen to believe that Jesus could come for us anytime now.
- That being said-I sort of have in the back of my mind that every sermon I preach needs to be preached like it's the last sermon I preach.

- It is for this reason that I am compelled to get real in how we deal with what is arguably the most celebrated Holiday in the entire world.
- In order to do this, I would like to make an attempt at answering some unanswered questions as it relates to "Christmas."

- Question #1: Was Jesus actually born on December 25th? No, let's close in prayer and go home!

- Question #2: Is Christmas even mentioned in the Bible? Not by that name however, we do have Jesus' birth prophesied in the Bible.
- Actually, there are some 365 prophecies predicting Jesus' 1st coming in the Old Testament. The first one is found in the first book.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. KJV

- 740 years before Jesus was born, the Prophet Isaiah predicted that the Savior had to be born from a virgin.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. NIV

- 750 years before Jesus was born, the Prophet Micah predicted that the Savior had to be born in Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The one to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." NKJV

- We also have references to the virgin birth in the New Testament. Consider what the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Galatia.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, KJV

- Question #3: Why was Jesus born of a virgin? He was born to die, that we may be born again and live.
- Jesus came into this life through a virgin's womb, and in His death left this life in an empty tomb; why? Because; of God's love for us.
- One has said that "Jesus entered our world through a door marked "No Entrance" and left through a door marked "No Exit."

John 3:16 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. KJV

- Question #4: Why did Jesus come in the first place? Because we needed a Savior? Our greatest need was His greatest deed!

- If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator;
- If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist;
- If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist;
- If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer;
- But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.

- Question #5: Why do we celebrate Christmas?

- Because God gave us the greatest gift of all!
- This gift may not be under a tree, but it was because of a tree.
- This tree wasn't cut down to be put up to hang lights on, it was cut down, and made into a cross to hang Jesus on.

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: KJV

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. NIV

Ephesians 2:8-9 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. KJV

- Some have cleverly quipped and have asked; "What would Jesus buy for Christmas?" I believe the answer is; "you and me."

1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. KJV

Matthew 13:44-46 44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. KJV

- Yours and my gift of eternal life has already been bought and paid for by the precious and priceless blood of Jesus Christ.
- The problem for many is that just because the gift has already been given, doesn't mean that it has necessarily been received.
- The main reason that people don't "receive" this gift is because people don't "believe" they need this gift.
- "After all, Santa Claus is coming to town after checking his list twice and I've not been naughty, I've been nice." No you have not!

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; NIV

Scale of 1-10, 10 being good enough to get to heaven, 1 being so bad you're going to hell.

- 10 - _____
- 9 - Billy Graham
- 8 - _____
- 7 - _____
- 6 - _____
- 5 - _____
- 4 - Pastor J.D.
- 3 - _____
- 2 - _____
- 1 - _____

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, NIV

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. NIV

Romans 10:9-10 9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." NIV