

## *The Message Notes*

**Message:** *God's Gift of Christ*

**Sunday:** December 20, 2020



**TEXT:** Luke 2:8-12

**v8.** That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. **v9.** Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, **v10.** but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you **good news** that will **bring great joy to all people.** **v11.** The **Savior**-yes, the Messiah, the **Lord** - has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! **v12.** And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." (NLT)

**TOPIC:** *God's Gift of Christ*

This week on Christmas Day, December 25th, we celebrate the **birth of Christ**. The celebration of Christmas is both controversial and theological:

1. **Controversial** points: Why Christmas should **not** be celebrated:

- We don't know the **correct date**
- The **early church** regularly celebrated the resurrection of Christ not the birth of Christ until the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Some of the **practices, symbols,** and even the **Day** we celebrate Christmas are believed to be rooted in paganism
- The **cultural influence** has overshadowed the purpose of celebrating Christmas (Birth of Christ)

2. **Theological** points: Why Christmas **should** be celebrated (Christian narrative of Christmas):

- **Holy Day** of God: It's a **Holy** day because it's **different** from all other days. It reminds us about Christ birth:
  - ✓ God **planned** it – prophecies/Word of God
  - ✓ God **explained** it – Angels/messengers
  - ✓ God **carried** it out – Holy Spirit/inspiration

**Reference:** Matthew 1:18

- **Incarnation** of God: It's the day God became flesh and dwelt among us in the person of Jesus Christ

**Reference:** Matthew 2:23

"Christ's **birth** should be **remembered** and **celebrated** because it **reminds** us of the **theological** significance of Christ's virgin birth (incarnation), and His death, burial, and resurrection are **inseparable** and **essential** doctrines of the Christian faith."

## TALK: *God's Gift of Christ*

**Luke 2:8.** That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. **9.** Suddenly, an **angel** of the Lord **appeared** among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were **terrified**, **10.** but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you **good news** that will **bring great joy to all people**. **v11.** The **Savior**-yes, the Messiah, the **Lord** - has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! **v12.** And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." (NLT)

### God's Gift of Christ:

- Good news
- Brings great joy
- For all people

**Good news:** Savior our Lord has been born

**TAKEAWAY:** God's Gift of Christ to us are:

**PT1.** Good \_\_\_\_\_ (Savior and Lord is born - Gospel)

- **As Savior: Matthew 1:21.** And she will have a son, and you are to name him **Jesus**, for he will **save his people from their sins**.
- **As Lord: Matthew 4:23.** Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the **Good News** about the **Kingdom**. (NLT)

**PT2.** Brings \_\_\_\_\_ (Salvation)

- God loves us
- God died for us
- God offers us (eternal life)

**St. John 3:16.** "For this is how God **loved** the world: He **gave** his one and only Son, so that everyone who **believes** in him will not perish but have **eternal life**. **17.** God sent his Son into the world not to **judge** the world, but to **save** the world through him. (NLT)

**PT3.** It's for \_\_\_\_\_ (Reconciliation)

**2 Corinthians 5:19.** For God was in Christ, **reconciling** the **world** to himself, no longer **counting people's sins against them**. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. (NLT)

**Messages of God:** Prescriptive...Corrective...Directive

**Reference:** Matthew 1:24-25