

THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

Luke 2: 8-14

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold,^[a] 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!"^[b]

God's Christmas gift to you has three qualities that make it unique.

First, it is the most expensive gift you'll ever receive. It's priceless. Jesus paid for it with His life.

Second, it's the only gift you will receive that will last forever.

Finally, it is an extremely practical gift – one you use every day for the rest of your life.

The Miracle of Christmas is a cause for celebration. It brings salvation

It provides reconciliation

I. Celebration

Psalms 118:24

²⁴ This *is* the day the LORD has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Why, some people celebrate.

They've made it through another year.
To be with family
A Christmas bonus
They have a job
They have unemployment check

Some are not celebrating anything. They are just trying to survive.

Luke 2:10

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.

It is personal: "I bring you"

It is positive: "Good News of great joy"

It is universal: "for all people"

We can celebrate 3 truths

God loves us
God is with us
God is for us

I Timothy 6:17

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

Psalms 145:9

⁹ The LORD *is* good to all,
And His tender mercies *are* over all His works.

F aithful
E verlasting
A ppearances
R eal

Immanuel – God is with us

Isaiah 43:2

² When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,
Nor shall the flame scorch you.

Psalms 27: 1-6

- ¹ The LORD *is* my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
The LORD *is* the strength of my life;
Of whom shall I be afraid?
- ² When the wicked came against me
To eat up my flesh,
My enemies and foes,
They stumbled and fell.
- ³ Though an army may encamp against me,
My heart shall not fear;
Though war may rise against me,
In this I *will be* confident.
- ⁴ One *thing* I have desired of the LORD,
That will I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD
All the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the LORD,
And to inquire in His temple.
- ⁵ For in the time of trouble
He shall hide me in His pavilion;
In the secret place of His tabernacle
He shall hide me;
He shall set me high upon a rock.
- ⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me;
Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle;
I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

I Corinthians 11:24

²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat;^[a] this is My body which is broken^[b] for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

If God is for us who can be against us **Romans 8:31**

The first statement the Angels made to the Shepherds, "Do not be afraid."

II. Salvation

Luke 2:11

¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

What do you need to be saved from?

From worry?
From people who have hurt you?
From your sins?
From you past?
Bad Habits?

The Miracle of Christmas brings us salvation from something and for something.

Our sins will cut us off from God.

The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23

¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

The miracle gift of Christmas frees us from bitterness and resentment.

Romans 8:1

¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,^[a] who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

John 8:36

³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

There is freedom – from addictive habits.

It is by His grace through faith that we can have the miracle gift of salvation.

Isaiah 53:6

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

III. Reconciliation

"We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation "**Romans 5:11**

Reconciliation brings peace

Phillipians 4: 6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

This Christmas gift gives us Peace with God

The Peace of God and Peace with others.

Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

II Corinthians 5: 17-21

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Reconciliation ends hostility
You can disagree agreeably.

James 3:18

¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Conclusion:

I believe the Miracle of Christmas brings me celebration, salvation and reconciliation. AMEN

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Hark the Herald Angels Sing.