

What's So Special About Christmas?

Part 2 – Salvation

December 13, 2009

Luke 2:11, 25-32

Christmas is about the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ

*Luke 2:11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is **Christ the Lord**.*

What is salvation?

*Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall **be saved**.*

It is through Christ alone

Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved

John 17:6 I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

It can be easily missed

John 1:10-12 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

It is worth seeking out

Matt 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

It is better than anything else

Luke 10:20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

The three dimensions of salvation

First, Jesus saves you from something

*Matt 1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for **He will save His people from their sins.***

Sin is the problem

*Rom 3:23 for all have **sinned** and fall short of the glory of God,*

I John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Rom 7:15-17 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

Jesus is the solution

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

II Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

II Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Second, Jesus saves you for something

II Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love

I am saved for:

Good works

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Others

II Cor 5:15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

The great commission

Matt 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

An abundant life

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

A cross

Mark 8:35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

Third, Jesus saves you by something

*Eph 2:8-9 For by **grace** you have been saved **through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

GRACE:
God's Riches At Christ's Expense

*Rom 4:5 But to him who does not work but **believes** on Him who justifies the ungodly, his **faith is** accounted for righteousness*

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Gal 2:16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Rom 3:22-24 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

I am saved by faith in Jesus

Matt 24:6-8 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.