



**THE BIRTH
OF CHRIST**

(THE PURPOSE)

LUKE 2:1-14

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

It seems like every year about this time the question comes up:

What about Christmas?

Should we celebrate it?

I think the answer is “yes” and “no”.

We should not celebrate it as a “holy day”.

Galatians 4:10-11

But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage. You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

Under the law of Christ, the new law, there are no holy days.

However, I believe we can celebrate Christmas as a national holiday.

Other holidays have a religious tone to it.

Thanksgiving

The 4th of July

Christmas should be viewed as any other national holiday.

If you are truly offend by Christmas, then you should not celebrate it.

However, you should not try to bind this on others.

You should also think of the days of the week.

The names for most, if not all the days of the week came from the names of pagan gods.

But when we use these names, we are not paying homage to that particular god, but instead we are just saying what day of the week it is.

So it should be with Christmas.

Things I like about Christmas.

The Lights.

The songs. (Most of them.)

The giving of gifts.

It seems like most people are a little more kinder and happier at this time of year.

The idea of peace on earth and goodwill toward men.

Even if for just a little while, most people's attention is turned toward God and that can't be a bad thing.

Have you ever asked yourself the question: “Why did God send His Son to the earth?”

What was the purpose?

That’s what we want to talk about today.

First, We Should Always Bear In Mind That Jesus Did Not Begin In Bethlehem 2,000 Years Ago?

Before the world was, Christ was, still is, and shall always be.

Prior to His incarnation as a babe in Bethlehem, He was the eternal Word (Logos) who was with Father from before the creation of all things.

John 1:1-4, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and with Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

One principle purpose of Christ's coming into the world as a man was to reveal the Father to us.

John 14:8-9

Philip said to Him, " Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'"

He showed us God's great glory and His love for all mankind.

“We beheld His glory,” John 1:14

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

I John 4:10

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

He revealed the Father's true nature—that of mercy, compassion, willingness to forgive and save even the worst of sinners who are willing to repent.

Jonah 4:2

So he prayed to the Lord and said, “Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my own country? Therefore I fled to Tarshish; for I know You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness, One who relents from doing harm.

James 5:11

Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

Jeremiah 31:34

For I will forgive their iniquities and their sin I will remember no more.

I Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came in the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

The very name He was given reveals His mission.

Matthew 1:21-23

“And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet , saying, “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man has come to seek and save the lost.

Another Principle Purpose Of Christ's Coming Was To Provide A Perfect Sacrifice (Or Atonement) For Sin.

Under the Old Law there was no satisfactory or effective sacrifice for sin.

Animals were offered under the Levitical priesthood system, but we are told in Hebrews 10:4

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

It was necessary, according to God's plan, that Jesus come as the "Lamb of God"---to be offered up as a perfect sacrifice---to bear our sins in His own body.

In doing this He took our place.

Christ's sacrifice upon the Cross took care of all who died in faith and obedience under the Old Testament just as His blood cleanses all who believe and obey Him under the present (new) testament.

Hebrews 9:15-17

And for this reason He is the mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must first be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.

Christ suffered once for our sins, and put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Hebrews 9:26-28

For then He would have had to suffer repeatedly from the foundation of the world. But as it is, He has appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.

The Old Law was perfectly fulfilled and was taken out of the way when Jesus died on the cross.

Colossians 2:14

Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Ephesians 2:14-16

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Third, And Finally, Another Principle Purpose Of Christ's Coming Into The World Was To Be Raised Up And Seated On God's Right Hand As King Over God's Spiritual Kingdom.

He was born to be King.

Luke 1:30-33

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Throughout His public ministry Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God sometimes called “the kingdom of heaven.”

He told Nicodemus that a man “must be born again” in order to enter this kingdom, John 3:1-5

In Mark 9:1, He said the Kingdom would come with power within the lifetime of some those to whom He was speaking.

But, the Jews expected an earthly, materialistic Kingdom, with an earthly King.

Jesus made it very clear that His Kingdom was not of this nature.

John 18:36

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.

Contrary to the expectation of the Pharisees and Jewish rulers, God' Kingdom was to be a spiritual kingdom.

Following the crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus remained on earth for forty days.

He instructed the Apostles to “ wait in Jerusalem until they would receive the power from on high.”

On the day of Pentecost the power came upon the Apostles and they preached Christ as the crucified, resurrected, ascended, and reigning King of kings and Lord of lords, seated at the right hand of God.

What was the result?

Acts 2:36-38, 41

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

The rejection of Christ by the Jewish leaders in no way stopped God's Kingdom with Christ as King, but instead it was part of God's plan all along.

His Kingdom began with power: Christ reigns as King, in truth and righteousness, in the hearts of all who submit their lives to His will.

Paul tells us that Christ's present reign will continue until the end, at His second coming

I Corinthians 15:24-26

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Every person today is living in one of two dominions—either in the Kingdom of Christ, or in the dominion of spiritual darkness.

We each need to ask ourselves, “How has Christ’s coming into the world affected my life?”

Many are living today as if Christ had never come, had never died, had never been raised from the tomb, and had never become King and the Redeemer of men.

They have never really trusted in Him and the cleansing power of His blood.

While some are living good moral lives, they are still outside the kingdom of Christ.

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water's surface. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The text is centered over the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline.

**HOW HAS THE COMING
OF CHRIST AFFECTED
YOUR LIFE?**

Given by David Hamlin 12-17-06 am

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