

THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS

December 19th, 2010

The Three Purposes Of Christmas

1. The first purpose of Christmas is celebration

Luke 2:8-10 (NIV) "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.'"

Christmas is a birthday party for Jesus

The "Good News" of Christmas is...

- God loves us
John 3:16 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- God is with us
Hebrews 13:5 (GN) "For God has said, 'I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.'"
- God is for us
John 3:17 (NIV) "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him."

2. The second purpose of Christmas is salvation

Luke 2:11 (NIV) "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."

What Is Salvation?

You are saved from something, you are saved for something, and you are saved by something

- You are saved from your sin
Matthew 1:21 (NIV) "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

Romans 7:24-25 (TM) "I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me?... The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does."

- You are saved for a purpose
2 Timothy 1:9 (GN) "He saved us and called us to be His own people, not because of what we have done, but because of His own purpose and grace."

- You are saved by God's grace
Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

3. The third purpose of Christmas is Reconciliation

Luke 12:13-14 (NKJ) "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'"

What Kind Of Peace Does Jesus Give?

- **Jesus gives peace with God (spiritual peace)**
Romans 5:1 (GN) "Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- **Jesus gives the peace of God (emotional peace)**
Philippians 4:6-7 (LB) "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:7 (NIV) "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
- **Jesus gives peace with others (relational peace)**
Matthew 5:9 (NKJ) "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Acts 10:35 (TM) "God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open."

My Next Step Today Is...

- I will take time this week to reflect on why we celebrate Christmas
- This Christmas I am asking Christ into my life for the first time
- There is someone God is leading me to make peace with this Christmas, and I will
- I will memorize Hebrews 13:5