

"FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD. AND SHE (MARY) SHALL BRING FORTH A SON, AND THOU SHALT CALL HIS NAME JESUS; FOR HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS" (Matt. 1:21; Lk. 2:11).

The clearly stated single mission of Jesus Christ's life was to "...seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). "For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:17). The message of Jesus work of salvation is called the "gospel" (Romans 1:16). Gospel means "good news". The good news is that God has made a way through His Son Jesus Christ for man's sins to be forgiven. A man can only have peace with God and be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ (Jn. 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5; Rom. 5:1). Many people believe if I only live a good life, do the best I can, keep the ten commandments, be sincere in all I do, God will surely be pleased with my efforts and allow me entrance into heaven. If that were true, then there was no need for Jesus Christ to suffer the cruel judgment of Calvary's cross (Gal. 2:21). The fact is, all men are sinners and are justly deserving of God's wrath and judgment (Rom. 3:1-20; 1:18). Man cannot save himself, make himself right with God, or please God with human effort (Isaiah 64:6; Phil. 3:9). How many sins does it take to keep a man out of heaven? The answer is one (James 2:10). If you miss heaven by one sin or fifty million sins your eternal destiny either way will be the torments of hell (2 Thess. 1:9; Luke 16:19-31). God's absolute and perfect holiness requires perfect righteousness for anyone to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:20,48). When we believe on God's Son and receive Him as our personal Savior we are clothed in the perfect righteousness of Christ (Tit. 3:5; Phil. 3:9; Rom. 3:22). It is the perfect righteousness of Christ that makes us acceptable to God and allows us to enter the kingdom of heaven (Eph. 1:6).

The true meaning of Christmas is the birth of a Savior! Without the birth of Christ, without the death of Christ (bearing the penalty of man's sin in His body), all of us would be hopelessly lost and separated from God for all eternity. When we were "...without strength (to save ourselves), in due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Rom. 5:6). God "...commends His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). The babe of Bethlehem left the glories of heaven to enter this world in His humanity to suffer, to bleed and to die for a lost humanity on its way to hell. Without the shedding of His precious sinless blood the remission of sins would not be possible (Heb. 9:22; 1 Peter 1:18,19). It is not following the teachings of Jesus that brings salvation, it is not following the example of Jesus that brings salvation, it is believing in the atonement of Jesus that brings salvation. The gospel of salvation is the message of Christ's death, burial and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-3). Jesus Christ, now risen from the dead and having accomplished atonement for your sins, has His arms outstretched in love to you. He is inviting you to receive the gift of salvation (Eph. 2:8,9). He is inviting you to believe that all that needs to be done for a man to be made right with God has been done through His finished work on the cross of Calvary (John 19:30). The debt of sin we owe God has been paid. God offers you a receipt that has all your sins written upon it. Over the top of all your sins written in red ink with the crimson blood of the lamb of Calvary, God's Son Jesus Christ, are the words PAID IN FULL. This is the wonderful message of Christmas! Will you pray now and receive Christ as your personal Savior (John 1:12). Tomorrow may be forever too late.

CORNERSTONE

BIBLICAL ANSWERS TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

GOD'S CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOU



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Multitudes of people will celebrate Christmas this year without realizing its' true meaning. The following account describes a typical traditional Christmas celebration. "And there were in the same country children keeping watch over their stockings by the fireplace. And, Lo! Santa Claus came upon them; and they were sore afraid. And Santa said unto them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which be to all people who can afford them. For unto you will be given great feasts of turkey, dressing and cake; and many presents; and this shall be a sign unto you, ye shall find the presents, wrapped in bright paper, lying beneath a tree adorned with tinsel, colored balls and lights. And suddenly, there will be with you a multitude of relatives and friends, praising you and saying, 'Thank you so much, it was just what I wanted.' And it shall come to pass as the friends and relatives have gone away into their own homes, the parents shall say to one another, 'What a mess to clean! I'm tired, let's go to bed and pick it up tomorrow. Thank goodness, Christmas only comes once a year! And they go with haste to their cold bed and find their desired rest."

Tragically, year after year we miss the true meaning of Christmas in the midst of all the commercialism and materialism. Christ has been removed from Christmas. It is now x-mas we celebrate, not Christmas. It is our prayer that through this booklet you will make the greatest discovery in life that anyone could ever make. That discovery is to understand truly who Jesus Christ is and how God provided a way of salvation through the Christ child that was born into the world.

"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND SHALL BRING FORTH A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL, WHICH BEING INTERPRETED, IS GOD WITH US" (Matthew 1:23).

HIS VIRGIN BIRTH QUALIFIES HIM TO BE THE SAVIOR -- The Christ child whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas was the Son of God. He had no human father - - . The angel told Joseph: "...that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost..." (Matthew 1:20). Because of his virgin birth, he was born without sin. All other men born into the world with human fathers are born with sin (Psalm 51:5). All men born of human fathers will face death one day because the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). If we had no sin we would not die. Because of Jesus' sinless birth and sinless life (Hebrews 4:15), he was the only qualified lamb of God who could die for the sins of others. It was not the Roman nails that kept Jesus on the cross and caused him to die. Jesus had no sin and would never have died unless he willingly gave up his life. He said: "no man take my life from me, but I lay it down of myself" (John 10:18). It was love that kept Jesus on the cross. He could have called more than twelve legion of angels to deliver him (Matthew 26:53). He voluntarily bore in His own body on the tree the sins of the whole world so that the sins of any person in the world could be justly forgiven by God (1 Peter 2:24; Romans 3:21-30).

HIS VIRGIN BIRTH REVEALS HIS DEITY -- The entrance of Jesus Christ into this world was accomplished by very unusual circumstances. Wise men traveled a great distance from an Eastern country to be able to bow down at His cradle and worship Him. Think of it -- these men of renown, bearing precious valuable gifts to present to the Christ child and then to bow before a baby and worship Him (Matthew 2:11). WHY? Because this baby was DEITY. This baby was God manifest in human form -- IMMANUEL (John 1:-14). Who was it that hung on Calvary's cross. It was

God himself giving His life as a ransom for all the sinners of the world (Matthew 20:28). The only way for sinners to have forgiveness of sins and to be delivered from the power of sin was for God himself to rescue them (John 14:6; Acts 4:12) Man cannot save himself! Man cannot make himself right with God by his own efforts. Salvation is of the Lord from beginning to end (Jonah 2:9). The Biblical record gives abundant evidence that this Christ child who went to the cross was DEITY. Jesus claimed to be God (Jn. 5:17-23; 14:7-12). He proved He was qualified to forgive sins by His miracles (Mark 2:1-12). His followers recognized and acknowledged Him as God (John 20:28,31; Col. 1:15-19; Matt. 16:16). He did miracles that no other man has ever done (John 3:1; 14:11). Twice, God the Father spoke from heaven declaring Christ to be the Son of God (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).

"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN" IS. 9:6

HIS INCARNATION WAS NOT HIS BEGINNING -- Jesus Christ's existence did not begin when He was born into this world. A child was born, a son was given. As the Son of God He eternally existed (John 1:1). As a child born into the world, the Son of God was manifested in human form. Listen to the words of Philippians 2:6-8: "Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men..." He eternally existed as God, but at a point in time and history the Son of God was manifest in human flesh -- this is His incarnation.

HIS INCARNATION QUALIFIES HIM TO BE THE SAVIOR -- By the first Adam sin entered into this world with all its' death and destruction and ultimate eternal judgment (Romans 5:12). But praise our blessed Lord, where sin abounds, His grace does much more abound (Romans 5:20). The second Adam (the Lord Jesus Christ), through His genuine humanity faced the same temptations and attacks of Satan as the first Adam, but He never once yielded to sin or disobedience to God (Hebrews 2:15). It was necessary for Christ in His perfect humanity to defeat the powers of Satan and sin: "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; {15} And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. {16} For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham (humanity). {17} Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren (humanity), that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Hebrews 2:14-17).

HIS INCARNATION QUALIFIES HIM TO SYMPATHIZE WITH US -- Does God really understand our grief, our sorrow, our trials and pressures, our temptations in life. In His humanity Jesus Christ faced all the same human limitations, pressures and needs that we face. He got hungry (Matt. 4:2; 21:18), He thirsted (John 4:7), He needed sleep (Matt. 8:24), He cried (John 11:35), He experienced physical development and growth (Luke 2:52), He bled (John 19:30ff), He experienced suffering (Heb. 2:10,18; Luke 2:40) etc. Isaiah informs us that Jesus was "...despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Is. 53:3). According to Hebrews 4:15 "...we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.