

the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:20,48). Based on this, the only hope of salvation that any man has is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9). The true meaning of Christmas is the birth of a Saviour! God came to earth to bear the judgment of man's sins upon Himself. The babe of Bethlehem willingly laid down His life on the cross of Calvary. It was the shedding of the Son of God's precious (sinless) blood, that made salvation possible (1 Peter 1:18,19 2:24). Jesus Christ now risen from the dead at God's right hand in heaven, invites you to receive Him as your Lord and Saviour before it is forever too late (Hebrews 7:25 Ephesians 1:15-2:10). "He came unto His own (Jews), and his own received Him not. But, as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name"(John 1:11,12).

God's way of Salvation

The question of being right with God is not "Am I living a good enough life?". Nor is it the statement "I'm doing the best I can". Salvation is not gained by what WE do for God, rather it is a free gift based on the FINISHED WORK of Jesus Christ! (Eph. 2:8,9) Religion is MAN'S effort to please God. Becoming a Christian, is believing that GOD has already done all that needs to be done for me to be saved. Many religious people on judgment day will discover to their utter despair that "religion" will not allow them into the presence of God in heaven. (Matt. 7:21-23)

The vital question is "Are your sins forgiven?" All men are sinners by NATURE and by action. (Rom. 3:23 5:12 Eph. 2:1-3) We don't become sinners when we sin; we sin because we ARE sinners. Our very NATURE towards God is corrupt. (Is. 53:6 Rom. 3:10-13) Because we are sinners we experience death. (Rom. 6:23) Death is not only physical (separation of the soul from the body); but also spiritual (separation of the soul eternally from God) (2 Cor. 5 Gen. 3). Man's only hope of being reconciled to God is through His Son-the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17-19) Through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection He paid the penalty for man's sin and made it possible for believers to be freed from the bondage and condemnation of sin. (1 Cor. 15:1-7 1 Pet. 2:24) Forgiveness is possible through His shed blood. (1 Peter 1:18,19) By TOTALLY trusting Jesus as your Saviour as your ONLY hope of being made right with God; you can be saved from the condemnation you justly deserved. (Jn. 1:12 3:16 Acts 16:31 4:12)

SERVICES

Sunday School	9:45 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	7:00 P.M.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 P.M.

THE CORNERSTONE

BIBLICAL ANSWERS TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

THE TRUE MEANING OF

Christmas



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What is the true meaning of Christmas? What exactly, are we celebrating? Who is Jesus Christ? Why is His birth of such supreme importance? Why after almost two thousand years are we continuing to remember the humble man from Galilee? Truly understanding who Jesus Christ is and the uniqueness of His birth, can lead you to the greatest discovery both of your life now and your eternal future.

"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).

The entrance of Jesus Christ into this world was accompanied by very unusual circumstances. Wise men traveled a great distance from an Eastern country to be able to bow down at the cradle of a baby in order to worship Him. Think of it -- these men of renown, bearing precious valuable gifts, worshipping a newborn baby (Matthew 2:1-12). WHY?? Because this baby was DEITY! This baby was GOD come to earth in the form of man. The apostle John puts it this way: "In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God. And the WORD was made flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1:1,14). Jesus Christ claimed to be God (John 5:17-23 14:7-12). Jesus Christ claimed power to do only what God can do (Mark 2:1-12). Jesus Christ was recognized by his followers as God (John 20:28,31 Colossians 1:15-19). Jesus Christ's enemies recognized His claim to be God (John 10:22-39). The unique miracles of Christ validated His divinity (John 3:1 14:11). God the Father twice spoke from heaven to confirm the deity of Christ (Matthew 3:17 17:5).

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

Jesus Christ existence did not begin when He was born into this world. Notice a "child is born", a "son is given". As a Son, He has eternally existed; as a child His existence was manifested in a different 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; And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." The precise wording of this Scripture reveals the careful distinction between His eternal existence as God, and His human incarnation as man. One of His names given in Isaiah 9:6 is

"everlasting Father".

WHY DID GOD COME TO EARTH AS A MAN?

By the first Adam, sin entered into this world with all its death, destruction and eternal judgment (Romans 5). But praise God, where "sin abounded, grace did 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 (Matthew 4). He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 2:15). By His genuine perfect humanity He became the only suitable sacrifice that had the power to take away sins (Hebrews 10:1-18). Every other man that dies, dies because of his own sin (Romans 6:23); but the sinless lamb of God willingly laid down his life for us, taking the wrath of our sins upon himself (John 10:18). Jesus was made a "...little lower than the angels (human form) for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9).

"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, death, and resurrection 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 about Jesus Christ is called the "gospel" (Romans 1:16). Gospel means "good news"! The good news is that God has made a way for man's sins to be forgiven. If man could be saved by living a good enough life, then there would be no need for Jesus Christ to have suffered the cruel judgment of Calvary's cross (Galatians 2:21). But the fact is that all men are sinners and are justly deserving of God's wrath and judgment (Romans 3:1-20 1:18). Man cannot save himself!!! Have you ever asked yourself; "why do all men die?"? The answer is "...the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23). All men die because all men are sinners! Some are greater sinners than others, but all fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). It takes only one sin to keep a man out of heaven (James 2:10). God's holiness requires perfect righteousness in order for men to enter