

## THE CERTAIN HOPE THAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST

- Sometimes life can become so busy leading up to Christmas that some people ironically almost overlook Jesus Christ, the very reason for the season, whose birthday we are celebrating. This is especially the case as we now see Christmas becoming more and more consumer focused
- With this in mind I would like to begin by looking at two passages of Scripture in the Bible in relation to the birth of Jesus Christ

FIRSTLY, IN MATTHEW 1:18-23 WE READ,

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Then Joseph her husband, being <sup>[a]</sup>a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

<sup>20</sup>But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is <sup>[b]</sup>conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name <sup>[c]</sup>JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup>So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”  
(**Matthew 1:18-23**)

AND NOW QUICKLY IN LUKE 2:6-14 WE READ,

<sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there (that is in Jerusalem), the days were completed for her (that's Mary) to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a <sup>[a]</sup>manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

### **Glory in the Highest**

<sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And <sup>[b]</sup>behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

<sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a <sup>[c]</sup>manger.”

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, goodwill<sup>[d]</sup> toward men!” **(Luke 2:6-14)**

- I WILL NOW QUICKLY LOOK AT THE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS FOR ALL OF US
- Jesus Christ entered into our world to bring hope to humanity
- To make a way for us to have a personal relationship with the God who created all things

- He came into our world so that the empty void that we all have in our lives can be filled with God's love through the Holy Spirit for all those who receive Him
- During His time here on earth Jesus Christ was both fully God and fully man
- In living here on earth for 33 years Jesus Christ can identify with us what we experience during the struggles and challenges that we all go through in life

- The simple fact is that He cares about each and every one of us

- Because of Jesus Christ's willingness to come to earth for 33 years to make a way for us to be reconciled to God through His sacrifice on the cross, we by putting our faith and trust in Him can experience the following in this life:

i. TRUE JOY (Irrespective of our circumstances)

**King David wrote**, "You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (**Psalm 16:11**)

ii. TRUE PEACE (Even during the trials of life. Jesus is the Prince of Peace)

**Jesus Himself said**, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (**John 14:27**)

iii. TRUE PURPOSE (God has a unique plan for our life that can give us true fulfilment in life)

**Jesus Himself said**, “...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (**John 10:10**)

iv. TRUE FREEDOM (He who the Son sets free is free indeed)

- We can be free to enjoy the abundant life that God wants us to experience
- Nothing is impossible with God. As believers we have a God who both hears and answers our prayers that are in line with His will for our life

**The Apostle John wrote**, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (**1 John 5:14-15**)

- We can be free from fears and addictions. God’s perfect love casts out all fear

**The Apostle Paul wrote**, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (**2 Timothy 1:7**)

- There is no more shame nor guilt when we come to Christ. Our past mistakes are forgiven
- We can have freedom from the expectations of others and from comparing ourselves with others as our identity is now based on who we are in Christ and His great love for us – He will never leave nor forsake us

- v. INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP with the God who created us so that we can make good choices in life (There is no longer a barrier of sin when we come to Christ)

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” **(Romans 5:5)**

- vi. THE CERTAINTY OF GOD’S ONGOING PROVISION AND PROTECTION FOR OUR LIVES when we become part of His family by becoming a believer in Christ

**Jesus Himself said,**

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**

**Jesus also said,**

“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” **(Matthew 10:29-31)**

**AND**

- vii. The blessing of being part of a big CHURCH family (That no matter where you go in the world you have a church family where you will be loved and accepted)

- HOWEVER, I want to finish by sharing about the wonderful ETERNAL hope that we can have due to Christ leaving His glory in heaven and entering into our world for 33 years

- Jesus Christ was born to die so that we can live forever if we are prepared to receive Him into our heart and live to be our Lord and Saviour
- ON CHRISTMAS DAY WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST
- On Good Friday we remember Jesus Christ dying on the cross at Calvary to pay the penalty for our sins
- However, on Easter Sunday we celebrate He is risen, that Jesus conquered the grave and is alive for evermore and is now back in heaven
- Today Jesus wants to give you the greatest gift if you have never yet opened your heart to Him, THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

**Jesus Himself said,**

“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.” (John 3:16)

- TODAY JESUS IS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR OF YOUR HEART

- Today you can receive His offer of eternal life by simply praying the following prayer from your heart

Dear Father God today I turn from my sins to live for You. I believe that Jesus Christ died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Jesus baptize me with the Holy Spirit I pray in Your precious Name, Amen