

# THE TRUTHS OF CHRISTMAS

## We Really Need Christmas Luke 1:76–79 (NKJV)

76 “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, 78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

This passage is in the middle of the birth of John the Baptist.

The words are of of John’s father, but also by way of inspiration the words of God.

John stood between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

He came to prepare the way of the Messiah.

John and his ministry are often excluded from the Christmas story, but it is an essential part of it.

Zacharias along with all Israel knew to the promised redeemer.

They had expected and looked for Him for generation after generation.

The needed Him. They thought they needed Him to free them from the Romans but that was not His purpose.

He would come to give them knowledge of salvation.

He would come to give them remission of their sins.

He would come to change everything but not in the way that they expected.

### I. Hopelessness vs Promise

A. In that day, Israel lived in hopelessness, there was no way forward for them.

1. Rome had conquered the world much less this little patch of land know as Israel.
2. But more than that the religion of the Jews had become totally corrupt.
3. They either denied the power of God or they denied His absolute holiness with their corrupt lives.
4. The Sadducees believed in neither spiritual beings or the soul.
5. The Pharisees worship was reduced to a code of conduct they elevated themselves above the common people.

B. But Christmas came (the birth of a Savior) with promise.

1. 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”
2. Not that they could be delivered from the power of Rome.
3. But that they could delivered from the power of sin.
4. Satan and sin are always the enemy of mankind.
5. Satan is the god of this age. Which means that this age, this world is under his power and control.
6. All that is in the world is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, it is not of the Father but of Satan.

C. But Jesus come to dethrone Satan.

1. He give the promise of eternal life to those who repent of their worldly ways and puts their faith in Jesus.
2. Ever since that time Jesus has been setting people free from the power of sin and of Satan.
3. Jesus had delivered us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God.
4. And the promise is that one day soon He will deliver the entire creation from Satan’s control and bring in everlasting righteousness.

D. That is why everyone needs Christmas.

1. We were all lost until Jesus found us.
2. The world is filled with sin and ugliness and needs to be delivered.

II. Death vs Life

A. At one time we were all dead people walking.

1. Dead in sins and transgressions.
2. We had no spiritual life and were condemned to death.

B. But Jesus came to promise life to the dead.

1. 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,
2. John 5:24-25 (NKJV)
  - a. 24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. 25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear

will live.

3. Jesus is not talking about the physically dead but the spiritually dead
4. Jesus came to give us life.
5. John 10:10 (NKJV)
  - a. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

### III. Sin vs Righteousness

#### A. To sin is to miss the mark.

1. That is the meaning of the word sin in verse 77
2. We are all sinners by nature and by choice.
  - a. No one makes us go astray.
  - b. It is no ones fault but our own.
3. Others may influence us but we decide what to do.
4. And without the Holy Spirit with in us, we will prevail to sin.
5. We are taken captive by Satan and are his willing slaves.
  - a. 2 Timothy 2:26 (NKJV)
    - (1) 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

#### B. But Christmas came that we might not only be righteous but work righteousness.

1. 79 To guide our feet into the way of peace
2. With out Christmas, you, me, and the whole world is in wickedness.
3. Paul opens most of his letters by referring to the addresses and saints.
  - a. The word saint means holy one.
  - b. And it God's sight that is what we are if we belong to Him.
4. Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)
  - a. 20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.
5. 1 Corinthians 15:34 (NKJV)

- a. 34 Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.
- 6. Philippians 1:11 (NKJV)
  - a. 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

#### IV. Condemnation vs Salvation

##### A. Everyone is in one state or the other. Condemnation or Saved

- 1. John 3:18 (NKJV)
  - a. 18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- 2. The old song says, "The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin, the light of the world is Jesus."

##### B. The whole world is condemned without Jesus, without Christmas.

- 1. Acts 4:12 (NKJV)
  - a. 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

##### C. Salvation is found only through the great plan of God to bring us to salvation.

- 1. 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins,
- 2. God will not accept your plan for eternal life.
- 3. 78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;
- 4. John 3:16 (NKJV)
  - a. 16 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.

76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, 78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."