

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

SUNDAY MORNING - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 1995

Responsive Scripture Reading:
Luke 2:1-20

TITLE:

"HOW DO YOU SPELL CHRISTMAS ?"

I Timothy 3:16

INTRODUCTION: *Reading of the Text*

I Timothy 3:16

*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh,
justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles,
believed on in the world, received up in glory.*

The Name of Jesus

*Isn't it interesting that for the last 2,000 years - the name Jesus has been the most
cursed, scorned and abused name in all of history while at the same time being the most
worshipped and adored and sung about name ever!*

**He's name is either used in cursing & swearing by those who do
not know Him**

or

**In Praise and Worship of those and by those who do
know Him**

*It is still, at this time, legal for me to tell you that Christmas is the
Celebration and Anniversary of the Birth of Jesus, The Christ who was an actual and
factual historical figure in human history...*

*In fact. Jesus Christ is the most authenticated and most documented person who
has ever lived. There are more eye witness accounts of Jesus, both religious and non-
religious, than any other human being.*

The Bible, the book that was written about Jesus is the most authenticated and most documented collection of writings in the world with over 13,000 manuscripts! - Following at a distant second is Homer's Iliad at 600 manuscripts.

and in fact;

The sayings of Jesus Christ and the Writings of the Bible are not only supported by eye-witnesses, but have been 100% accurate at predicting future events - Prophecy - History written down in before it happens!

*I find it interesting that Children naturally assume
and trust in the existence of God...*

(The Children's Book)

"HOW DO YOU SPELL CHRISTMAS ?"

The Birthday of Jesus Christ

is it ChristMAS or is it ChristMIS or is it X-Mas

American Heritage Dictionary

Christmas (kri-ts-mōs) n.

1. A Christian feast commemorating the birth of Jesus.
2. the worship of the Christ...

Christ (kr-hst) n.

1. The Messiah, Savior, as foretold by the Old Testament, including John the Baptist.
2. Jesus of Nazareth, born in Bethlehem

1933 Oxford University Dictionary

Christmas;

- 1) The Mass of Christ - the gather together to celebrate Messiah, The Savior.
- 2) The festival commemorating the Nativity of Bethlehem
- 3) The act of recognizing and adoring The Christ Child

*There is Only One way to Accurately Spell Christmas
and there's only one way to accurately celebrate Christmas,
- to acknowledge Jesus Christ*

MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY HAVE ABORTED JESUS RIGHT OUT OF CHRISTMAS

What If on Your Next *birthday* your mother sent you a card that say's...
"Dear Beuford, have a Happy X-Day"

Well Happy X-Day to you too!

I.) *The World Then ~ Missed Christams*

How could they have Missed Christmas: everything had been provided,

A.) THE MEDIA COVERAGE WAS THERE

- *angelic hosts appeared*
- *shepherds could be heard(ing)*
- *a star shone in the eastern sky (supernatural)*
- *magi came from the far east from babylonia*

*They knew from Isaiah 7:14 & 9:6
that Invisible God was to become a Helpless baby boy.*

Isaiah 7:14

**Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive,
and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;

HEROD TOOK IT SERIOUS ENOUGH

Matt 2:3

When king Herod the heard that Jesus had been born, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Matt 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. :5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

Micah 5:2

"But you, Bethlehem E though you are little among the thousands of towns in Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me... the One who is to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, even from everlasting."

The Roman Government Gave Attention

"kill the babies boys 2 & under"

the arco vol.

It was all communicated;

AT&T is predicting an all-time record for Christmas long distance calls of about 122 million, up from nearly 112 million a year ago.

Christmas & Mother's Day.

- The **Busiest** calling day of the year... Mother's Day - 113.8 million
- The **Second** most busiest calling day of the year... Christmas - 111.7 million...
- The annual worlds record for **Collect-Calls** are made on- Father's Day - 97 million

Dad, Just thought I'd use your money to call you up and say that *I appreciate you Dad*

The Father paid for a call *that was made along time ago, and is still being made today...*

JESUS... SAVE ME, CAN YOU PAY FOR THIS? THANKS!

C) THE CHILD WAS THERE

When God Came Near...

The Evidence Was Laying in a manger.

(saliva stained, snot spattered motel)

"great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit,.... seen by angels,"

Angels Had Never Seen Him !

1 Tim 6:16

God, dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see,

Col 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

The Physical Incarnation

Dr. Robert Seizer, in his book "Notes on the art of surgery" tells of a case where he was removing a tumor and had to cut a nerve in the face of a young woman which left her mouth twisted and uncontrollable. As he explained the results to her husband, he approached her and smiled. He asked if her mouth would be like this for long, the doctor replied " for the rest of her life - forever " the husband said good, it looks kind-a cute and then leaning over he twisted his lips to meet hers. - I realized then that this man had a love for her that made them one, he molded, himself to become like she was.

John 1:1
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:10
He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

aren't you glad that Jesus was born in a common way - able to relate to him

- *Wasn't Born in a Palace.... If you were God, where would you have your Son born*
- *Wasn't Born into Wealth... If you were God, wouldn't he have been born rich*
- *Wasn't Born into Power... If you were God, Your Son would Invade the scene*

HOW COULD FLESH CONTAIN GOD ?

Col 2:9
For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

II.) The World Now ~ Misses Christmas

Why would We Miss Christmas:

A.) TO BUSY TO STOP AND LISTEN

the average working-American

- is at the Job 8-10 hours per day
- working 5.5 to 6 days per-week
- with an average commuting time of 35 minutes
- sleeping on the average of 6 hours a day

According to "Mortality and Morbidity", a monthly publication for the C.D.C in Atlanta... **Heart disease is rising in both men and woman, heart attacks are increasing and intestinal disorders are at all time highs.**

An Orange County Physician (G.P) estimated that over 75% of his patients are seen as a result of Stress-Induced Illnesses

Luke 21:25

An Amplified Version

"There will be signs in space, signs in the sun, the moon and the stars, and On the earth, the nations will be in anguish and perplexity, frustrated! The sea will be roaring and tossed violently, and "men's hearts will fail them from fear and from the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the celestial heavens will be shaken.

B.) TO TIRED TO FEEL OR CARE

Jesus warned 2,000 years ago that pressures and burden would rob many people

Mark 4:19

"beware that the cares of this world, the deceitful pursuit of riches, and the desires for many things do not entering in to your heart choke the word of God out,

Friday we buried a wealthy! man who for 87 years lived for himself. "His goal in life was to strike it rich - in god's grace he did... 10 day's before his death he asked Jesus into his life as Lord and Savior!!

Eph 4:17

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the unbelievers do, in the futility of their thinking, :18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart;

The Truth is that...

That Longer Your is **estranged** from God... the more cynical you become the more critical you become and the more self-reliant you become until you have built an island around yourself

C) TO SELF-CENTERED TO LOOK AND SEE

We Are Living At A Time *when our society is more focused on self, then at any other time...*

there was no room for Him in the Inn
(a lodging place) Jesus say's I stand at the door of your heart and...

Luke 2:34
Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against

Job 9:11
When he passes me, I cannot see him; when he goes by, I cannot perceive him. (NIV)

*It's Jesus' Birthday -
Not mine, Not Yours... But we get the gifts*

according to tradition the gift giving came about as a reminder that God had given us a give...

You May Think you're God's give to man... but the truth is Jesus was, He is, He will be God's gift to all mankind everywhere...

Why Jesus Came...

Titus 2:14
who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people,

- God Is Holy And Cannot Sin...

*He Became One Of Us -
Yet He Was Perfectly Obedient To The Father*

2 Cor 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

2 Cor 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Gal 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us

GOD'S NATURE

is not like ours

Heb 12:29

God is a consuming fire.

John 3:16

"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.

"DON'T BE A DOUBTING THOMAS..."

John 20:25

Then the disciples said "We have seen the Lord." So Thomas said to them, "Unless I see in His hands and the mark from the nails, and put my finger into the holes from those nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe..."

THOMAS DIDYMUS;

JOHN 11:16

THEN SPOKE THOMAS,

WHO'S NIC-NAME WAS DIDYMUS... HOW MUCH DID-HE-MIS ?

Nothing under that tree tomorrow will
give you contentment of heart forever

HOW DO YOU SPELL CHRISTMAS ?...

*Is it with CrhristmAs or ChristmIs
Maybe it's Christmas without Christ, Maybe it's just an X-mis*

Luke 19:44

(paraphrased)

"how i wanted to bless you and give you peace,
but you did not recognize the time of your visitation."