

CONCORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

December 22, 2013 (Christmas Message)

Title: God's Greatest Gift

Text: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (**Isa. 9:6a**). For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

Introduction

God's greatest gift to people is often overlooked at Christmas time. Today we concentrate our attention on that gift foretold by the prophets: God's only begotten Son (Isa. 9:6).

It is the tragedy of tragedies that so few have properly related themselves to the Christ who was born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger. The wise men came asking, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" (Matt. 2:2). **We should be asking:** "Who he really is?" and "What do I think and know about the Christ?"

Is Jesus Christ merely a mythical or legendary figure? Is he simply the most notable figure on the pages of history? His birthday gave the world a new era, dividing the past from the future at a focal point. His majesty has given the world its most immortal paintings. His love has inspired the world's masterpieces of art, sculpture, and music. His influence has inspired earth's greatest philanthropies. More books have been written about him than have been written about all of the kings who have ruled from earthly thrones.

Let's remind ourselves who is this Son whom God has given us & the whole world.

I. God has given unto us a supernatural Son.

- A. *Jesus was supernaturally conceived and born of the Virgin Mary.*
- B. *Christianity is built and based on a supernatural Christ.* Christianity is more than a creed or code; it is a fellowship with a risen and living Christ. Those who reject the virgin birth and explain away Christ's miracles and deny his resurrection have only a pale, weak, anemic human Christ who has no power with which to save a sinful race.

II. God has given unto us a sinless Son.

- Christ was "in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15).
- A. *Christ refrained from all willful transgression.*
 - B. *Christ was the very essence of personal purity.*
 - C. *The verdict of Pilate, the Roman governor, was "I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him" (Luke 23:14).*

At Jesus' baptism, God spoke from heaven, expressing the divine approval of Christ (Matt. 3:17). He made a second expression of approval at the transfiguration (Matt. 17:5). The resurrection of Christ was a public demonstration of the divine acceptance of his substitutionary death on the cross.

III. God has given us a Son who suffered as our substitute.

- A. *The prophet Isaiah foretold the substitutionary death of the Suffering Servant of God (Isaiah 53:5 – 6).*
- B. *The angel told Joseph that Mary's unborn child was divine and that he would be the Savior of his people (Matt. 1:21).*
- C. *When John the Baptist introduced Jesus to his disciples, he called him the one who would bear the sin of the world (John 1:29).*

- D. *Jesus defined his objective for coming into the world in terms of giving his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).*
- E. *Jesus described himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life voluntarily for his sheep (John 10:11).*
- F. *Paul declared that while we were still rebel sinners against God, God loved us and gave his Son to die for us (Rom. 5:6).*
- G. *The Sinless One, by a divine decree, was made to be sin for us that he might suffer in our place, saving us from the penalty of sin (2 Cor. 5:21).*
- H. *He who was rich beyond imagination became poor that we, through his poverty, might be made indescribably rich (2 Cor. 8:9).*
- I. *God's greatest gift, his sinless Son, suffered for us sinners that he might return us to God (1 Peter 3:18).*

IV. God has given us a Son who is an all-sufficient Savior.

- A. *He takes care of the past by the pardon of every sin and the forgiveness of every transgression.*
- B. *He takes care of the present by his abiding presence.*
 - 1. He is the mind of God speaking out to people.
 - 2. He is the voice of God calling out to people.
 - 3. He is the heart of God throbbing out to people.
 - 4. He is the hand of God reaching out to people.
 - 5. He is the Savior who can meet the deepest needs of the soul.
- C. *He takes care of the future by providing a home at the end of the journey.*

Conclusion

Have you really received the royal Guest into your heart? It is time to let him in. Do not ignore him or shut him out. Accept God's greatest gift by receiving his Son as the Lord of your heart and life. **He claimed that :**

- 1. I am the Bread of Life ([John 6:35-51](#)).
- 2. I am the Light of the World ([John 8:12](#); [John 9:5](#)).
- 3. I am the Door of the Sheep ([John 10:7-9](#)).
- 4. I am the Good Shepherd ([John 10:11-14](#)).
- 5. I am the Resurrection and Life ([John 11:25](#)).
- 6. I am the Way, Truth, and Life ([John 14:6](#)).
- 7. I am the True Vine ([John 15:1-6](#)).

Those who accept Him their Lord & Savior and walk with Him in obedience will receive:

- 1. Peace ([Romans 5:1](#))
- 2. Life in full([Romans 6:11](#)){Dead to sin, alive to God}
- 3. Eternal life ([Romans 6:23](#))
- 4. Thanks for salvation ([Romans 7:25](#))
- 5. Boasting ([Romans 15:17](#)){Give glory to JC in things which pertain to God}
- 6. Victory ([1 Cor. 15:57](#))
- 7. Heirship ([Galatians 4:7](#))
- 8. Keeping ([Phil. 4:7](#)){He will guard your hearts & minds}
- 9. God glorified ([1 Peter 4:11](#))
- 10. Salvation ([2 Peter 2:20](#))

Have a wonderfully blessed and spiritually renewed remembrance of your Saviors birth.....Amen.