

Andrew K. Frey

Christmas Eve

Luke 2:11

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. (NIV 84)

Theme: Christ: A Savior Born for You

We said earlier tonight that many people celebrate the customs and traditions of Christmas without believing in Jesus; and in doing so they celebrate Christmas without Christ and are Missing-A-Savior. And while that is true about many people in the world, it may not seem as if it stands for you. At least today anyway. After all, you are here today—right now Christ is part of your Christmas celebration. Of course, for some people here, you aren't here to worship Jesus as much as you are here to watch the children sing songs and recite Luke 2. Nevertheless, you are here tonight. But what about tomorrow or on the 28th, or any other day for that matter? There are certain days like Christmas Eve that we make it a priority to come to Church. Which is good and great and pleases the Lord. The problem is that many of you I won't see you for awhile, maybe not till Easter. And many others still may fail to put Christ first each and every day of our lives. And then it's not just Christmas that is Missing-A-Savior; but every day. So as we take a look at the angel's message to the shepherds we will see who Jesus is a Savior born for you—and so we never want to be without our Savior, Jesus.

The 5-8 graders recited verse 11 of Luke 2 for us earlier, **Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, he is Christ, the Lord.** Let's start out by going backwards in this verse. Who is that baby, Jesus? He is the Lord. He is the one who called Moses out of the burning bush 1500 years before. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. That means that Jesus isn't just the Son of God, but the eternal God himself. This is the point John makes as he begins his gospel. **In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God... he Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** There is a reason why angels didn't make appearances and sing songs of joy when you were born—you're not God. But Jesus is. That means that the eternal and all powerful God was born as a little

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helpless baby. He gave up the glories, riches, honor, and power of heaven to live on this earth as one of us.

Jesus is not just the Lord, but he is also the Christ. Christ, the word we've been focusing on tonight, is the Greek form of the Hebrew word, Messiah. Both Christ and Messiah mean "The Anointed One." That is, the Chosen one. Jesus is the long-promised Messiah. He is the Promised to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. For centuries God's people had been eagerly waiting the Messiah, and now the angel announced to these lowly shepherds that their wait was over. 30 years later, at the beginning of his ministry, Andrew, who would be one of Jesus' disciples, said to his brother Peter, **We have found the Messiah (that is the Christ).** That was equal to saying that the Savior had been found. He is the one God chose to save the world from their sins—the answer to fall mankind.

All of are in need of that Savior. Because, from Adam and Eve, everyone has been born with a sinful nature. There is nothing good that lives in us. We fail to love God perfectly as he demands and we don't always love everyone else as we love ourselves. God commands that we be perfect and without sin. But that's not what God sees. No, instead he sees nothing but horrible miserable sinners who can't even keep his commandments for a single hour—let alone a whole lifetime. So we deserve his wrath and punishment—to suffer forever for each and every one of our sins. Anyone who is Missing-A-Savior at his death will be missing that Savior for eternity. And there is nothing we can do about it. We can't make amends for our sins; we can't make up for what we have done wrong. There is nothing we can do to convince God to save us.

So God sent the world's one and only Savior, his son, Jesus Christ. Jesus of course didn't remain a sweet innocent baby, as we see him today. He grew up—yet he remained innocent. Not once during his 30-plus years on this earth did he ever go against God's Word. Not once did he fail to love God or others. Yet, he was sentenced to death on a cross. But it was on that cross that Jesus took our sins upon himself. He suffered the eternal condemnation that our sins deserved when he was forsaken by God. And he gave his perfect life to us. So he took away what we could not have and he made us what we needed

to be. By the shedding of his blood on the cross our sins were washed away. He truly is the Savior.

One of the sad side-effects of present giving during Christmas is the sin of jealousy. We may become jealous of the gifts others receive. Why did they get something so nice or expensive and not you? It's not fair!

But look again at the angel's message to the shepherds, **A Savior has been born to you.** Jesus wasn't just born for the shepherds. A savior was born for you just as he was for them. For Christ lived, suffered, died, and rose from the dead for all people. And that includes you.

All your sins, everything you have done wrong, have been wiped away by Christ. There is no sin too great, or no amount of sins too numerous that Christ didn't pay for. It is a gift given to us by God. As Paul summarizes in Romans 6, **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

So there is no need to be jealous of this gift that God has given to others—because it has been given to all people—including you. And all who believe in him will receive the forgiveness of sins and eternal life that Christ has won for us and given to us freely!

Missing-A-Savior? Not you, not today. And I pray, not any day. For it is in him alone that we are saved. **A Savior has been born for you; he is the Christ the Lord.** Jesus—The Lord God, The Christ—the long-promised Messiah, the Savior of the world's sins, has been born for you so that you may not miss him for an eternity. Amen.