

# “CHRISTMAS: WHAT’S THE BIG DEAL?”

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Message Notes – Sunday, December 16, 2007

## Key verse:

“She (Mary) will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

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## 1. THE FIRST PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS IS CELEBRATION

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’”

Luke 2:8-10 (NIV)

### WHY DO WE CELEBRATE?

- GOD LOVES US!

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16 (NIV)

- GOD IS WITH US!

“For God has said, ‘I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.’”

Hebrews 13:5 (GN)

- GOD IS FOR US!

“God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.”

John 3:17 (NLT)

## 2. THE SECOND PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS IS SALVATION

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord!”

Luke 2:11 (NIV)

### WHAT IS SALVATION?

- SAVED FROM MY SIN

The angel to Joseph: “...you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

(Paul) “I’ve tried everything and nothing helps. I’m at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does.”

Romans 7:24-25 (Mes)

- SAVED FOR A PURPOSE

*“He saved us and called us to be His own people, not because of what we have done, but because of His own purpose and grace.”*  
2 Timothy 1:9 (GN)

- SAVED BY GOD’S GRACE

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”*  
Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

### **3. THE THIRD PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS IS RECONCILIATION**

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”*  
Luke 2:14 (KJV)

#### **WHAT KIND OF PEACE DOES JESUS GIVE?**

- PEACE WITH GOD (spiritual)

*“Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
Romans 5:1 (GN)

- PEACE OF GOD (emotional)

*“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”*  
Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

- PEACE WITH EACH OTHER (relational)

*“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”*  
Matthew 5:9 (KJV)

*“It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from – if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open.”*  
Act 10:35 (Mes)