

Don't Forget the Wonder of Christmas! – Part 2

John 1; Luke 2; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 12-17-2023

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name – John 1:12

- 1. We must receive to celebrate.** Celebrating Christmas requires that we actually receive the Gift of God's Son, Jesus.
- 2. Receiving is believing is trusting.** Receiving Jesus is a matter of believing in His name and believing is a matter of trusting Him with our lives.

How do we receive the gift of God's Son?

Saving faith has three components:

- Knowledge (of the truth of the gospel) = 'I know what the gospel is.'
- Belief (in the truthfulness of the gospel) = 'I believe the gospel is true.'
- Trust (in the Person proclaimed in the gospel) = 'I trust Jesus with my life as Savior and Lord.' (2 Kings 5:9-14) Faith relies on God's Word (what He says/promises) and puts our lives in His hands. – Genesis 15:6; John 3:16, 36; 5:24; 6:29, 35, 40; 20:31

- 3. We are to trust Jesus for who He is.** We are to trust Jesus for all He says He is and all He promises to be for us.

What are we trusting Jesus for or to be for us?

- "I am the bread of life" – John 6:35

Satisfaction: Are you trusting Jesus to satisfy your soul like bread satisfies our bodies? For full and lasting joy?

- "I am the Light of the world" – John 8:12

Truth: Are you trusting Jesus to guide you into all truth? To deliver you from lies and error that destroy? To reveal the true God to you?

- "I am the door" – John 10:9

Fellowship: Are you trusting Jesus alone for fellowship with God now and forever?

- "I am the good shepherd" - John 10:11

Substitution: Are you trusting Jesus and His cross to deliver you from death to life? For the forgiveness of sin which is the sting of death? From the threat of the world, the flesh and the devil?

- “I am the resurrection and the life” - John 11:25

Life After Death: Are you trusting Jesus for life after death? to raise your body from the dead? For the enjoyment of the new heavens and new earth?

- “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” – John 14:6

Acceptance: Are you trusting Jesus for acceptance with God? as the way to God, the truth about God and the enjoyment of God? seeing God?

- “I am the vine” – John 15:5

Enabling: Are you trusting Jesus for nourishment and strength? For good fruit in your life? For obedience to God? For love for others?

- 4. *Jesus is the official Savior of the world.*** We are to especially trust the love of God in Jesus as the Lamb of God and the Savior of the world.

What are you trusting Jesus for with regard to our greatest problem: our guilt before a Holy God?

The Name of the ‘Lamb’ of God – John 1:29, 35-36; Matthew 1:21

The Threefold Love of God:

- The love of benevolence. (love of disposition/desire)
- The love of beneficence. (love of doing/giving) – Matthew 5:43-48; John 3:16
- The love of complacency. (love of delight or pleasure in someone)

The goodwill of God toward mankind resulted in the good deed of providing Someone to fill the office of Savior of the world. – 1 Timothy 4:10; John 3:14-17; Matthew 22:1-4

- 5. *God loves you in that He has provided a Savior for you.*** The good news of Christmas is that Christmas declares that God loves you in that He has goodwill towards you and has provided His Son as a Savior for you!

When the shepherds showed up that wonderful night what should they have seen on the manger?

The Name on the Manger: *Goodwill to You!* – Luke 2:14; 15:20

The Name on the Manger: *A Savior for You!* – Luke 2:10-11; 1 John 4:14