

Christmas: Hope in a Fallen World

The Whole Gospel for Christmas (Part 1)

Various Scriptures; Coast School of Theology; Pastor Earl Miles; 12-2-18

Christmas Needs Context

We need to see Christmas in the whole context of the gospel. We need to remind ourselves of the gospel message we have to share. We need to grow deeper in the gospel message that is the source of the hope, peace, and joy that we celebrate at Christmas each year.

1. God is perfect light and perfect love. (1 John 1:5; 4:8; Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 136:1)

What is God like? He is not a legalistic monster nor is he an indulgent mother. The best starting place for the good news is with God because He is the Good News!

- This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. – 1 John 1:5
- The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. – 1 John 4:8

2. God created the world ‘good’ and placed man in a paradise. (Genesis 1:31; 2:8)

Is the world the way it’s always been? No. (Which raises the question, ‘Why not?!’)

- God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. – Genesis 1:31
- The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. – Genesis 2:8

3. God created us to glorify and enjoy Him through trust and obedience (love). (1 Corinthians 10:31; John 15:11; Genesis 2:15-17; 1 John 3:23)

Why did God create? For His glory and our good.

- Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. – 1 Corinthians 10:31
- These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full. – John 15:11

Christmas: Hope in a Fallen World

Hope: Waiting for God and His salvation from evil and suffering. Why? The Fall.

4. **We have rebelled and worshiped created things and failed to obey (love).** (Genesis 3:1-13; Romans 1:18-32)

What is our sin? It has to do with the Law, with what we value, and with love.

- When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. – Genesis 3:6
- For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. – Romans 1:25

5. **We have been separated from God, deserve His just punishment and now live in a fallen world filled with evil and suffering.** (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:14-24; Romans 3:9-18, 23)

Why is there so much evil and suffering in the world? It's not God's fault.

- ¹⁶ The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." – Genesis 2:16-17

6. **We cannot save ourselves and will not come to God for mercy.** (Romans 3:19-20; Galatians 2:16b; John 5:40; Ephesians 2:1-3)

Can we fix the problem? No.

- ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; ²⁰ because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin. – Romans 3:19-20
- And you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. – John 5:40

Hope: Genesis 3:14-15; Isaiah 7:14; 11:1-9

So where is the hope in light of such a bleak reality? That's where Christmas comes in!

- ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." – Genesis 3:14-15
- Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. – Isaiah 7:14