

“Our Savior, Christ the Lord!”

Luke 2:10-11

¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10–11 (NKJV)

The birth of Jesus Christ, our reason for great joy!

I. A Savior –

1. Jesus is our Savior from sin –

²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

A. Most people think of Jesus as the Savior from Hell, from condemnation, and it is true He is that –

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

B. He certainly saves us from perishing –

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (NKJV)

2. In Matthew 1:21 the Angel tells Joseph that Jesus will save His people from their sins. In Romans 8:1 Paul tells us that those who are not condemned, those who are saved, walk in a certain way, not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

3. We are not saved “to sin” but “from sin.”

II. Christ –

... who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10–11 (NKJV)

1. Greek - Χριστός (Christos)

2. Hebrew – Messiah

Means Anointed One- referring to anointing with oil, symbolic of anointing with the Holy Spirit

3. In the Old Testament there were three anointed offices:

A. Prophet – gave us God’s Word(s)

B. Priest – represented men to God, prayed and offered up sacrifices

C. King – ruled men according to God’s law, was charged to lead God people to be faithful to God. Note a good king upheld God’s laws and removed idols from the land –

¹¹ Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did his father David. ¹² And he banished the perverted persons from the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. 1 Kings 15:11–12 (NKJV)

While an evil king did the opposite, leading people away from God’s rule and law and into false religion –

⁵¹ Ahaziah the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel. ⁵² He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; ⁵³ for he served Baal and worshiped him, and provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger, according to all that his father had done.
1 Kings 22:51–53 (NKJV)

4. Now these three offices correspond to how we are or were created in God's image –

A. Scripture teaches man was created in God's image –

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
Genesis 1:26-28

B. God is a Spirit John 4:24 so we are NOT created in God's image physically but rather spiritually and morally. In knowledge, righteousness and holiness.

¹⁰ and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Colossians 3:10 (NKJV)

²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:20–24 (NKJV)

Jesus' office of Prophet corresponds with Knowledge, -

²² For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. Acts 3:22 (NKJV)

¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. John 1:18 (NKJV)

Jesus' office of Priest with Righteousness, -

²⁴ But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶ For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;* ²⁷ who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. Hebrews 7:24–27 (NKJV)

Jesus' office of King with Holiness / faithfulness –

¹⁴ These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful*." Revelation 17:14 (NKJV)

As being in God's image we have these things over animals, but as the image is distorted we become more like animals: lacking in knowledge of God, righteousness or holiness, our salvation means these things are restored in us!

C. *Sin distorts and has distorted that image of God in man –*
God's image is distorted by every sin any human being has ever committed. Jesus the Son of God's physical image was likewise distorted by the beating He took before the cross, because sinful man did not recognize Him for Who and What He was!

¹³ **Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.**

¹⁴ **Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage (*face, image*) was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; Isaiah 52:13–14 (NKJV)**

*Sin distorts knowledge of God into ignorance of God!
Sin distorts righteousness into unrighteousness, iniquity or guilt!
Sin makes holiness into idolatry, and unfaithfulness to God!*

Yet Jesus Himself was God's image, and as Christ He was Prophet, Priest and King –
² **has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, Hebrews 1:2–3 (NKJV)**

D. *As the Arm of God, Jesus is our salvation -*

1 Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. ² The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. Psalm 98:1–2 (NKJV)

Isaiah 52:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God. Isaiah 52:10 (NKJV)

E. *Note how clear it is that Jesus is this arm of the LORD for us, and His strength is the cross -*
53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:1–6 (NKJV)

F. *But don't miss that the image of God is spoke of in the midst of the Isaiah 52 & 53 talk of the Arm of God and salvation:*

A. **Isaiah 52:10 Arm**

B. **Isaiah 52:13-14 Image**

C. **Isaiah 53 Arm**

G. *By nature, we hate the image of God we see in Christ, but by grace and the New Birth we desire it, as Christ, Prophet, Priest and King, Jesus restores us to God's image –*

H. *Note certain passages of Scripture speak of salvation in these terms –*

Salvation means being restored in God's image –

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

- 3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 1 John 3:1–3 (NKJV)

Note we are to be “renewed” in these things

¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Colossians 3:10 (NKJV)

²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:20–24 (NKJV)

III. Lord –

²¹ **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Matthew 7:21 (NKJV)**

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:3 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ **“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? Luke 6:46 (NKJV)**

What do these words mean?

1. *Not that merely saying words gains anyone anything!*

Many will say, “Lord, Lord,” but will miss Heaven!

2. *It is not a profession of faith that saves, but a true, real, vital profession matched or evidenced by doing – but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Matthew 7:21 (NKJV)*

3. *We will “do” because He is working in us –*

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life,... Philippians 2:12-16 A

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22 (NKJV)