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Reading: Luke ch 2 v 1-20

The world compartmentalises things in life but the Word of God is one and we can enjoy all of it at anytime. This story is usually associated with Christmas, but it is still relevant at any time.

God is in control.

Mary had been told she was going to bring forth the Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. She was in Nazareth but in the old testament it had been prophesied that the Saviour would be born in Bethlehem. In Rome at this time the Cesar wanted to know how many people were in his entire empire. So the decree went out to all which required Mary and Joseph to return to Bethlehem because that's where Joseph was born. The all powerful Cesar was just a pawn in the hand of God.

We are not just robots we have a mind and will but God is ultimately in control.

"ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good" (Gen 50:20) was said by Joseph in the Old Testament when confronting his brothers about selling him as a slave. He knew God was in control.

Today we have the opportunity to hear and believe the Gospel. God is in control of every aspect.

The Lord Jesus Christ was at the right hand of the throne of God. He had everything yet He left that position and came down into this world that His hands had made, full of sin and transgression and people that hated God. He lived for 33 and a half years and moved as a man amongst men. He could hear and see them and was with them all the time.

"He was obedient unto death even the death of the cross" (Phil 2:8)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)

We are all on a journey from birth to death and beyond. We start life as a babe in our mother's arms yet it's not long till that child matures and becomes an adult - this is the most insignificant part of our journey the most important part is at what point we met the Saviour.

"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)

We must all come to an understanding that Christ died for us on the cross and if we do not trust Him we will go into a lost eternity. Then we can say, "The Lord is my helper..." (Heb 13:6)

We all start in a sinful state "on the broad way" but there is room on that broad road to turn onto the "narrow way" which leads to heaven. "Few there be that find it" (Matt 7:13,14).

The Lord Jesus Christ is "God manifest in flesh" (1 Tim 3:16). The God of heaven had an interest in His creation. "He made man in His own image" (Gen 1:26). God saw it was good. It was the perfect creation. God could add nothing to it and He rested on the seventh day.

Sin came into the world when Adam and Eve ate of the tree of Knowledge of good and evil and disobeyed God. They hid from God because they had a conscience about it. Sin changes man's attitude towards God and themselves. God could have destroyed it all and started again but God had a plan.

"When the fullness of time was come God sent forth His Son" (Gal 4:4), "He did no sin" (1 Pet 2:22), "He knew no sin" (2 Cor 5:21) and "in Him is no sin" (1 John 3:5). "He went about doing good healing those oppressed of the devil" (Acts 10:38).

He would go to the cross and suffer and die. The thief on the cross could say "we receive the due rewards of our deeds but this man have done nothing a miss" (Luke 23:41). John the Baptist announced

Him, "Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

He rose again and went back to heaven to His Father's right hand (Heb 1:4).

When the rich man asked for Lazarus to be sent to his brothers, he was told "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:31)

The angel proclaimed, "I bring good tidings of great joy" (Luke 2:10). It was a message for all people, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour" (v.11). It is a personal message - "unto you". It is not a message for families, neighbourhoods or cities but for individuals. Each and every one in eternity will stand in our choice with what we did with Jesus who is the Christ.

Do we have a day in our experience when we met the Saviour - coming to the Lord? There is a place we all have to come to - the cross where we see sin in it's blackest hue: Calvary - the place of the skull. Man's beauty and pleasantness is stripped and you see the Lord crucified. Christians have looked upon the centre cross and said "Lord, remember me".

The message was "A Saviour Who is Christ the Lord", there is a person Who is associated with Salvation. He is not just best for time but better for all eternity.

The message is not just for time but for all eternity. He has come to "seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10)