

## No Christ - No Christmas

Jesus came to save the “*lost*,” represented by Zacchaeus, a despised tax collector, **demonstrating that salvation is available to everyone, *regardless of their social status* or *past sins***, and that **Jesus *actively seeks out those who need redemption***, even going to great lengths to reach them

**Luke 19:9-10** - 9 Jesus said to Zacchaeus, “Today you and your family have been saved, because you are a true son of Abraham. 10 **The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost.**”

Jesus explains that he came to save the lost, including Zacchaeus, a notorious sinner.

- ***Zacchaeus sought Jesus, but Jesus sought him first.***
- ***Zacchaeus’ perspective changed when he met Jesus, and Jesus declared victory.***

**This is the time of year** that our world looks at the **Coming of Jesus** to the earth more than any other time.

- He came as a baby, but he was the **Son of God**
- **The Bible says:** The Spirit of God is the one that impregnated Mary.
- He **looked and acted like *a normal child***, but he was the **Son of Man**
- He got his ***human body from the genes of*** his mother Mary

**Luke 19:10 – Sums up the entire Christmas story in one sentence!**

- **The reason why God wrapped himself in flesh and came to this earth was**
- **“To seek and save the lost”**

**We don’t know *how much he weighed*** that day but if he was around 7 lbs, you could say he was **“7 lbs. of salvation.”**

- He was **a 7 lb. Messiah**
- Not very big but he took on **the biggest job ever assigned to a human** being in the history of mankind.

**He had the responsibility to redeem me and you.**

He had the responsibility **To purchase our salvation** with his own life.

It's hard for us to *comprehend the complete picture* of the Incarnation of God.

Incarnation is a central Christian doctrine that states that **God became human by taking the form of Jesus Christ**

**Definition:** The belief that God became flesh, or “in-carnated” in human form. The word “incarnation” comes from the Latin word caro, which means “flesh”.

The incarnation is seen as *a way for God to bond with humanity*, and to *show that God loves us* and *understands our struggles*.

We don't fully grasp the meaning because we have nothing to compare it to, **God had never done this before!**

**John 4:24 tells us - God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

- “**God is spirit**” means that he is *not a physical being* limited to one place.
- He is **present everywhere**.
- And he can be **worshiped anywhere**, at **any time**.

**And this *Spirit decided to come to earth as a man* and *1 Tim. 3:16* tells us:**

**1 Timothy 3:16** - And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: ***God was manifested in the flesh***, justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

The Apostle John tried to help us understand what God did in the manger in

**John 1:14 - The Word Becomes Flesh - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Jesus Christ the eternal God and creator of this world became flesh for one reason: to save our souls!**

- God Almighty, mixed **his divine nature** with **human nature** –
- **To become the sacrifice for our sins...**
- **He paid the price for my soul!**

**WITHOUT Jesus Christ, there would be NO Christmas!**

This time of the year would be ***just like any other time of the year.***

- Just another month of the yr; just another day on the calendar.
- There would be no special ***Christmas plays***....
- There would be no ***lights on houses or decorated trees***.....
- There would be no ***wrapped presents under the tree***.....
- Or ***manger scenes*** in our living rooms.....
- **WITHOUT Christ there would be no “eggnog”**
- Or **Christmas caroling** from house to house.

**WITHOUT CHRIST, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> would be just like Month, nothing special to us!**

***I realize Jesus was not born on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, it was more than likely in late Sept or early October, but***

- ***Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> is a unique day in our hearts***
- Because we remember, ***he was born for our sake.***
- He was ***born for our salvation.***
- He came to ***“seek and to save the lost”*** of this earth.

**Acts 4:12 - Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”**

**There would have been no Acts 4:12 if God had not come in the flesh for our salvation.**

- **WITHOUT CHRIST**, we’d just be born, live for a while and then die.
- It would be all over with, **NO** possibility of eternity.
- **NO** hope, **NO** mansions in glory, **NO** eternal rewards

**Because of Jesus Christ, I have the chance to be saved.**

**I have the opportunity to spend eternity with him.**

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**Charles Wesley** would have never pinned the word to “Hark, the Herald Angel sing” **WITHOUT CHRIST.**

“O Little town of Bethlehem” or “The First Noel” **would be meaningless.**

O Come ye Faithful and Joy to the World **wouldn’t make any sense.**

How can we sing about “***Away in the manger***” if there was no baby?

Certainly songs like “Silent Night” or “When we all get to Heaven” **would have never been written** WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST being born.

WITHOUT CHRIST, we have **no salvation!**

“ “ “ “**no hope of glory!**

“ “ “ “**no reason to celebrate!**

**Just think! If you took the name of Jesus out of the Bible and the story of the Incarnation out of the Word of God, what would you have left?**

- Nice stories, some history and some **words of encouragement**
- But it would read like any other novel

**God wrapping himself in flesh and coming as a babe in the manger for our salvation makes the Bible different** than any other book written.

- The Word washed me when I read or hear it.
- The Word gives me strength and direction
- The Word tells me how to overcome sin and how to be saved

But **WITHOUT JESUS**, it couldn't do that!

**WITHOUT JESUS** = we have **nothing worthwhile!**

**It got my attention** when there has been ***a systematic effort to remove the word “Christ”*** out of our vocabulary this year.

They made us **stop praying publicly in our schools** years ago.

**Now you can pray** but you **can't mention the name of Jesus**.

- When you are **praying, you are talking to someone**.
- You have to say “**Jesus**”, **or you aren't praying to anybody!**

They want to **remove Jesus Christ out of our hearts** and **minds** and make this time of the year **just like any other time**.

The very word “**Christian**” means to be **Christ-like**

**WITHOUT CHRIST**, there would be **NO CHRISTIANS/NO CHRIST FOLLOWERS!**

**We would all just be sinners!**

**Paul writes the church in Ephesus, and he describes what we would be like WITHOUT CHRIST....**

**Ephesians 2:2-4** - 2 in which **you once walked** according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also **we all once conducted ourselves** in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

**Eph. 2:12** **That at that time** you were **without** Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and **without God** in the world.

**But because God did come and was born as a man on this earth,** we can read

**Eph. 2:13-14&19** - 13 **But now in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**Christ Our Peace**

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

**Christ Our Cornerstone**

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the **household of God,**

**WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST** we'd just live in houses but **WITH CHRIST** we are part of the household of God.

- **What a difference Jesus makes!**

**WITHOUT CHRIST, NO salvation - NO hope, NO peace, NO joy, NO rejoicing. NO celebration or healing - NO deliverance from addictions and carnal spirits NO songs, NO worship, NO godliness NO Water baptisms, NO HOLY SPIRIT infillings....**

**But WITH CHRIST, WE HAVE IT ALL!!!!**

**John 3:16-19** - 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.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

### ***The world wants to remove Christ out of Christmas***

- Because ***they are living in darkness and evil...***
- ***They feel condemned*** every time they think of Jesus.

### **Luke 2:8-14 -Glory in the Highest**

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 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. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host ***praising God and saying:*** 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

I want to ***teach us a little something this morning*** and ***not*** to make something out of nothing but,

- ***Why do you think the devil inspires people not to think about Jesus?***
- ***Why doesn't he want us to sing, talk about, or worship Jesus?***

The scripture ***does not*** say "***The angels sang***" ***at the birth of Jesus.***

***No time during the Lord's ministry on earth*** ***does it record the Angels as singing.***

- The only two times they sang was ***once at Creation*** and ***once in Heaven*** with the redeemed saints of God. (***Job 38 and Rev. 5***)

**The 1<sup>st</sup> time they sang was when Lucifer was still in Heaven, and he led the angelic choir.**

- **Lucifer oversaw worship.**

After Lucifer rebelled and was kicked out of Heaven, the angels had no choir director!

- *The Bible never records they ever sang again –*
- Until the redeemed are called home to glory in new Jerusalem.

God leaves the singing up to us!!!

**Psalm 100:1-2 - A psalm. For giving grateful praise.**

1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. 2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

**Psalm 27:6** - Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

**Psalm 104:33** - I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

**Psalm 40:2-3** - 2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock and established my steps. 3 He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear and will trust in the Lord.

***Since the fall of Lucifer, every place in the Bible it records worship, it has to do with our redemption.***

- It has to do with Jesus saving our souls!!!

***The Devil viciously opposes you and I in our worship and the very mention of Jesus Christ.....***

***Because you are taking his place when you do so!***

- We have become the worship leaders
- We have become the ones who lift up the Lord
- We have been promised homes in heaven

The entire story of Christmas is the story of our redemption!

**WITHOUT CHRIST we have no hope, no redemption, no salvation but WITH CHRIST we have it all!**

The angels did not sing at the 1<sup>st</sup> coming Of Jesus Christ but they will at his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

*Until we get to Heaven, and lead the choir, all the angels can do is  
"Talk about it" and repeat it –*

*Until we get there as the redeemed and sing about it, they have no one to lead the way.*

**CLOSE:**

*I think it would be great this morning if we could stand to our feet and exercise our right to sing and worship Jesus Christ.*

Let's make the angels **jealous right now with our worship!**

They wish they could be **redeemed like you, and I have.**

They wish they could be **filled with God's presence like we have.**

**WITH CHRIST we have it all but WITHOUT CHRIST we have nothing!**