



# The Life Of CHRIST

## The Life of Christ!

### Introduction:

- I. I was in the third grade and for weeks we were preparing for the big Holiday festival!
  - A. All the important people in the whole town were going to be there, mainly our parents, the other third grade classes, the teachers, and Mr. Robinson (the principle).
  - B. Other classes sang Christmas songs, some acted out Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, or Frosty the Snowman. But in Mrs. Gladys Cooley's class, we were going to perform a play on the birth of Christ.
  - C. Everyone in our class had to memorize Luke 2:1-20.
    - 1. Mrs. Cooley actually had everyone recite these verses from Scripture standing next to her desk in front of everyone else in class.
    - 2. To this day, I remember being scared to death about memorizing that much. I had a speak impediment at that time plus I was (am) a horrible memorizer. Mrs. Cooley was indeed a patient teacher!
  - D. But then the day came when we were selected by her for our various parts in the play.
    - 1. I was one of the shepherds! Wisely Mrs. Cooley made sure that I did not have any speaking parts!
    - 2. But I was the best none speaking shepherd you could ever imagine.
    - 3. My mom bought me a special red robe that went all the way down to the floor. My dad had a walking cane with a hook on top and he duct-taped an additional foot or two of dowel rod to the bottom making it look like a shepherd's rod.
    - 4. I really looked cool as third graders go, in my shepherd's outfit and the play was a wonderful success.
    - 5. I wonder if grade schools today would allow youngster to memorize Scripture and act out the birth of Christ like we did so many years ago.

- II. Yet, this is the time of the year when so many in the world stop and focus upon the birth of Lord!
  - A. Many folks have attempted to make Christmas “politically correct” over the years and certain organizations have attempted to get Christ (religion) out of Christ!mas
  - B. Yet, many beyond the efforts of “political correctness” or separation of church and state, still recognize December 25, as the day that Jesus Christ was born!
- III. We know the Bible teaches us to that Christ should be honored every day of our lives by how we conduct and live.
  - A. Plus, we especially remember our Lord and His offering of His sinless life on the cross, His burial, and His resurrection on the first day of every week as we worship together!
  - B. Yet, even though heavy commercialized, is it not refreshing that our world on a couple of occasions during the year, Christmas and Easter, stops and the world recognizes Jesus!
- IV. This morning I want us to focus upon our Lord!
  - A. Yes, we will briefly look at his birth, but just like the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; let us look more intently upon His Message and His purpose for coming into the World.
  - B. And to truly honor our Lord, let us do so with the resolve to forever be committed to Him in our complete life and not just a few days out of the year!

Discussion:

- ▶ I. As we begin to look at our Lord, let us go back to the beginning!
  - A. And I am not speaking about the beginning of His life on this earth, we must remember that Christ is Divine, He has always existed!
- ▶ John 1:1-4
 

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

  - 1. The “Word” is in reference to Christ. We know this because of verse fourteen in which John relates that the “Word was made flesh and dwelt among us...” (John 1:14)
  - 2. Yet, notice that the Word, Christ, was the one who made “all things” and it is in Christ that there is “life!”

- a. Christ did not come into existence at His birth through the virgin Mary!
  - b. He has always existed being one of the members of the Godhead and He was the One that created everything and gave life to us.
3. If we are going to focus upon the life of Christ we first must recognize that Christ is the Author, the Provider, of all life!



B. So, Christ's physical birth was not His beginning but a necessary ingredient in fulfilling His purpose for us in offering more than just physical life but also spiritual life!

- 1. John relates that Christ was made flesh (John 1:14). Some scholars say He was incarnated, and this was done through the birth of Mary!
- 2. The Old Testament prophets related that a time would come when a virgin would conceive and give birth to a son and He would be named Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)
- 3. When the angel of God approached the godly man Joseph relating that Mary's pregnancy was based from the Holy Spirit. The angel related that this was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. (Matthew 1:23)
- 4. And we also come to understand that the name Immanuel means; "God with us!" (23)



C. Some amazing events took place that day when Mary gave birth to Jesus!

- 1. The one that offers spiritual life came into this physical world in a very unassuming fashion.
- 2. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem on orders of the Roman government to be taxed and finding no place to stay; Mary and Joseph found themselves in a stable; and Christ was came into this physical world in this very humble surrounding. (Luke 2:7)
- 3. By these events happening, Micah's prophecy was fulfilled that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)



- 4. Then the lowly shepherds heard of the Lord's birth because an angel proclaims to them that born "in the city of David" was the Savior, "who is Christ the Lord. And as the shepherds were astonished at this announcement, then a multitude of angels appeared praising God.
- 5. These shepherds then went to Bethlehem to see the Savior that had been born. (Luke 2:8-18)



D. We also witness the faithfulness and the commitment of the Mary and Joseph to honor God.

1. After Jesus' birth they obeyed the Old Testament directives concerning what was to be done after a child was born.
2. They followed God's law concerning circumcising Jesus, Mary's purification, and the redemption process of the first born. (Luke 2:20-24)
3. Jesus indeed is going to be raised in a home where honoring and obeying God's will was an imperative.

Luke 2:39-40

"So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.

And the Child grew and became strong in spirit,[fn] filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him."



E. The Bible offers little of the growing up years of Jesus' life.

1. We do see the wise-men coming from the east to honor Him however this causes a threat to Jesus.
  - a. When the wise-men came they first went to Herod asking where was the newly born "king of the Jews"?
  - b. Herod therefore decided that this new "king of the Jews" should be eliminated because he was the king to the Jews therefore he attempts to kill all the young boys that had been born believing that he would kill Jesus in the process.
  - c. An angel approaches Joseph in a dream and warns them of Herod's evil plan. So Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt to escape and preserve Jesus' life. (Matthew 2:1-19)
  - d. This fulfills another prophecy concerning Jesus from Old Testament prophet Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 31:15)



2. We also read more about Christ's early life when He was twelve years old and He went to the Temple in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. (Luke 2:42-52)
  - a. Again, we recognize the faithfulness of Joseph and Mary honoring the directives of God by each year going to the Passover Feast. (41)
  - b. Yet, this event helps us to understand the time in which we see the Lord being accountable for who He is. Jesus recognized who He was and that He was going to fulfill His spiritual Father's will.
  - c. When Joseph and Mary journeyed home after Passover, they realized that Jesus was not with them. It took them three days to find Him; and

when they did He was sitting with the teachers of the law amazing these men with His knowledge

- d. When Joseph and Mary related their concern, He assured them that He was going about His Father's business. (49)
- d. We see the One that was the Creator of all things, recognizing who He is and therefore His purpose for coming to this earth. Yet at this point in His life, He follows the directives of the Old Law in which He lived under.

Luke 2:51

"And he went down with them (parents), and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them:..."

- ▶ II. It is some eighteen years later before the Bible relates anything more about Christ.
  - A. Jesus when he is thirty years old begins His ministry and teaching.
    - 1. John the Baptist precedes and prepares the way for the Lord's ministry, by directing the people to repent and be baptized looking forward to the Lord and His kingdom. (Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-7; Luke 3:1-20)
    - 2. Jesus comes to John and is baptized by John. This is when He John directs his disciples to follow Christ and this was when Christ begins His preaching and teaching.
  - ▶ B. For the next three years Our Lord traveled and taught the people and He used various ways to teach and present His message to the people.
    - 1. Sometimes He would sit down and simply speaks publically to the people very similar to what we are doing today.
      - a. The "Sermon on the Mount" is a great illustration of Jesus presenting His Message to the people. (Matthew 5-7)
      - ▶ b. On another occasion a great crowd gathered at the sea shore to hear Jesus and He got into a boat and spoke to the people that stood on the shore while his pulpit was the boat just off the shoreline. (Matthew 13:1-2; Mark 4:1-2; Luke 5:3)
    - ▶ 2. Many of the lessons that Jesus taught were done through the use of Parables.
      - a. Matter of fact, Mark relates that the "Parable of the Sower" was presented to the people at the time that Jesus was teaching from the boat on the seashore. (Mark 4:3-8)
      - b. There are many different parables found within the New Testament.

- c. The Gospel of Luke contains the most parables (24) and eighteen of these parables are unique to only Luke. Matthew has twenty-three parables and eleven are unique to His Gospel. Mark contains eight parables and two of them are unique. Some scholars relate that John did not list any of the parables, while other scholars suggest that the three stories in John 10 could be considered as parables.
- d. Parables were everyday illustrations that the Lord used to present a heavenly message.

3. He confirmed His message as being truth through the amazing miracles that He performed.

- a. Jesus had a great compassion for the people. He would be moved with this compassion when individuals came to Him wanting to be healed. So the Lord would heal many kinds of physical disabilities: those that were blind, lame, paralyzed, etc. (Matthew 9:27-31; Matthew 15:30-31)
- b. He brought several individuals who had died back to life. (Luke 7:12-15; John 11:1-44)
- c. Jesus demonstrated his control over the natural elements of this world because He could rebuke a storm and it would cease and there would be calmness and peace. (Mark 4:39)
- d. He would chase out demons which were allowed at that time to possess individuals, which showed His authority even in the spiritual realm. (Mark 6:13)

- e. He had such compassion for His crowning element of creation yet His main purpose for performing these miracles was to confirm His Word.

John 20:30-31

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

- f. See the Lord’s compassion goes much further than physical or natural issues, the Lord’s Message offers a healing from the sins that we commit. Jesus can heal us spiritual and make us alive spiritually.

III. So, what was the purpose of Christ’s life? Why did He come into this world?

- A. On several occasions Jesus related that He came to fulfill the will of His Father in Heaven.

John 6:38

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

John 4:34

“Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”

- ▶ B. Jesus told Zacchaeus His purpose for coming to the earth.

Luke 19:10

“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

1. Jesus’ mission for His life on this earth was to provide a way in which we could be saved from our sins. This demonstrates His compassion, mercy, and love for us!
- ▶ 2. His message relates how He was going to save us! Our Lord’s plan is to save the lost (all of us) by establishing His kingdom (the church) and all that willing come to His kingdom will be saved.

- a. Jesus related necessity of teaching others about His kingdom.

Luke 4:43

“but He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.””

- b. Jesus also taught that His kingdom would be a spiritual, not earthly, kingdom. While standing trial in front of Pilate, Jesus related that His kingdom was not of this world.

John 18:36

“Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.””

- c. The Jews were looking for a physical kingdom to overthrow the Roman Empire and set them at liberty, yet that was not Jesus’ purpose.

Luke 17:20-21

“Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.””

- d. Many today are still looking for a physical kingdom and expect the Lord to return and establish such a kingdom.

- e. Yet, friends, Jesus was already established His kingdom, it is His church, which He rules over today.



2. While Jesus was on the earth He related that His kingdom was coming soon.

- a. He taught and He instructed His disciples to teach that the kingdom would shortly to come to pass.

Matthew 10:7

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

- b. He even related that many would not face death until they witnessed the Lord’s kingdom.

Mark 9:1

“And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.””

3. After Acts 2, when the church was established on the Day of Pentecost, we see that one could be placed into the Lord’s kingdom, the church.

- a. The Apostle Paul related to the members of the church in Colossi that they had been delivered from darkness and placed into the kingdom of Christ.

Colossians 1:13

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”

- b. And today, we can be in the Lord’s kingdom, which saves us from our sins and insures that we have an eternal life spiritually with Him.

C. Why did Jesus leave the supreme splendor of Heaven to come to this earth? The purpose for His birth, His life, His death on the cross, and His resurrection was to provide a way for our salvation!

Conclusion:



I. We recognize awesomeness of Christ.

- A. He is One of the Divine Beings that left Heaven, was born of a woman upon this earth, lived a perfect life so that He would be our perfect sacrifice, He died on the cross as that sacrifice, then He conquered the grave and was resurrected, He ascended back to Heaven, and how He reigns over His kingdom which is His church!

- B. It is much more than just recognizing our Savior’s birth!



A. As awesome as His birth was, His message for obtaining salvation is so much more!

B. Our Lord was born in order to present His directions for salvation to us.

Hebrews 1:1-3

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,  
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;  
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,”

C. Now, the real question! Have you responded to His birth, His life, and His Message!

1. We can loudly proclaim Christ as Lord, however if we do not follow what He has directed then He relates, I do not know you! (Matthew 7:21-23)
2. Paul urges us to heed more earnestly to the things which we have heard from the Lord. Those that were disobedient under the Old Law received their just reward and since we have heard from Christ, Himself; we ought not to believe that we will escape from punishment. (Hebrews 2:1-4)

II. Let me offer you an invitation today!

A. If you are with us today and are unsure of the Lord’s Message please allow us to assist you in studying God’s Word and coming to understand what the Lord has directed and your needed response to it.

B. If you have studied God’s Word and you needed know what the Lord’s expectations are for you, then why are you waiting?

1. Come in your faith, repenting of your sins, proclaiming your commitment to the Lord, and being immersed in water for salvation; just as the Lord commanded.

2. And then live that faithful and committed live honoring and following Him.

C. If you are a Christian yet fallen from the Lord, falling back into sin. Then repent and come home!

D. If we can assist you today in studying, following, or returning to Christ; please let it be known as we stand and as we sing!