

“The Savior of the World has Come!”

Luke 2:11-14

Well good morning again, hope you are all doing well during this holiday season and hope this time, is a time of rest and worship for you and for your family. And this morning we are right in the middle of our advent series titled: “The Good News of Christmas,” which we know is all about Jesus. The first week we talked about how Jesus is the Word that became flesh for us. Last week we talked about how Jesus is the light of this world; and today we will see that Jesus is the Savior of the world. Maybe you are here today and you feel like there is not much in your life to celebrate, well, hopefully today as we fix our eyes on the Savior, we all will leave this place celebrating, praising, worshipping, and thanking Jesus for what He’s done for us. During the next 30 minutes or so you may start to think-I know all of this or I’ve heard this before. Maybe so, but pay attention because these simple truths that we will go over this morning are extremely powerful and even life changing if we apply them to our lives. And as we look at the Savior this morning we will try to answer several questions: First, who did the Savior come for? Second, why did the Savior come? Third, what was the Savior willing to do? And fourth, what did the Savior accomplish by coming? And as we answer these questions we will see that we are all in big trouble because of our sin. But the antidote for sin—is a baby (a Savior) wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a manger.

So let’s tackle the first question—who did the Savior come for? And before answering this question, let’s read the Christmas story from Luke chapter 2:8-21, “In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: ¹¹Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David. ¹²This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough.” ¹³Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace

on earth to people He favors! ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feeding trough. ¹⁷ After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard, just as they had been told. ²¹ When the eight days were completed for His circumcision, He was named Jesus—the name given by the angel before He was conceived.”

So, an angel of the Lord comes down to speak to some shepherds. What did he say? “I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: ¹¹ Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.”

Whoever this person is, whoever this baby is, has some big titles: Savior, Messiah, and Lord.

Savior-this baby who is wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a manger has come to deliver. This baby has come to save people, to be a Savior.

Messiah-In Hebrew this means the Anointed One, in Greek it means, Christ.

Lord-this word means supreme in authority.

Wow, so this baby who is lying in a manger has supreme authority and is the Anointed One that has come to be a mighty deliverer, a Savior. And what is the name of this supreme, Anointed, Savior? Verse 21, “When the eight days were completed for His circumcision, He was named Jesus—the name given by the angel before He was conceived.” Jesus. His name is Jesus. The Savior of the world is Jesus. A simple truth, but so powerful and life changing.

So now that we know who the Savior is, let’s answer the first question, who did the Savior come for? Verse 10 again, “I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: ¹¹ Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.”

Jesus, the Savior of the world has come for all the people; that's you and me. The Bible says that He came for all of us because He loves us so much. John 3:16, "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." Jesus knew the cost and He was willing to do whatever it took for us. Philippians talks about how He left His throne in heaven for you and me. Philippians 2:7-8, "Instead He (Jesus, the Savior) emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, He humbled Himself..."

Jesus is God and sat on His throne in heaven in all of His glory (explain), but left it all for us. The Savior emptied Himself for us, He humbled Himself for us; He did this because He loves you and me more than we could ever imagine. And as He came, He came looking for you and for me; Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."

Jesus, the Savior of the world left His throne in heaven and came to this world to take on flesh and become a man to seek us so that we could be saved; and love drove Him to do that. So, the answer to first question is us, you and me. The Savior came for us. So, don't ever think Jesus doesn't love you, don't ever think He doesn't care for you, don't ever think He's not concerned about your life; it's the complete opposite. He came for you because He deeply, deeply loves you, and wants a relationship with you, and wants to be your Savior.

So, after seeing the Savior wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a manger, the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all that they had seen. And today, right now, we too can glorify and praise God knowing the Savior has come for us as well!

Second question, why did the Savior have to come? Well, let's read the account of Jesus' birth in Matthew chapter 1:18-23 to get our answer, "The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

²⁰ But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Immanuel, which is translated “God is with us.”

So, the baby is named Jesus, His name means Jehovah saves, or God saves. In verse 23 we see that He is also named Immanuel, God with us. So, if we just put these two simple truths together, Jesus, who is God, is the Savior of the world that has come to be with us (twice). Why has He come, verse 21, “because He will save His people from their sins.” The Savior has come to rescue us because we are all in deep, deep trouble because of our sin.

This world has minimized sin. Things that God says are a sin, the world now says are ok, and even applauded. So, what is sin? Sin literally means missing the mark. God has a standard and His standard is perfection and we have missed His perfect standard. It all started with Adam and Eve in the garden, everything was great; they worked in the garden and were close to God. They were told that they could eat from any tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And we all know the story, the serpent (the devil, the evil one) came and tempted Eve to eat from the forbidden tree, she ate and so did her husband who was with her. And because of their disobedience, they were kicked out of the garden and separated from God. So, because of that, sin entered the world. Every baby born, has been born into sin. Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” So, we all sin, we’re all in trouble, we all miss the mark, we lie, we cheat, we gossip, we’re selfish, we lust, we hate, we steal, we worship other things besides God, and the list can go on and on of all the sins that are in our lives. And there’s nothing we can do to be perfect, we will never meet God’s perfect standard, we can’t be good enough; we have all fallen short of His glory. Because of sin we are separated from God forever, just like Adam and Eve. We all need the Savior!

So, because He loves us so much and does not want us to die in our sin, the Savior came for us, to rescue us from our sins, Colossians 1:13, "He (Jesus) has rescued us from the domain of darkness..." He came to make a way for us to be saved, a way to live in the Light and not in the dark. So, why did He come, because of our sin. We are all sinners who need a Savior!

And that was the plan from the very beginning. After Adam and Eve sinned the Lord God said to the serpent, "He (referring to Jesus the Savior) will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." The little baby wrapped snugly in a manger came to rescue us from the evil one and to make a way for us to be with God forever. John writes in the book of Revelation, "Look! God's dwelling is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God."

Because of our sin, because of man's disobedience, God came up with a rescue plan for us. His plan, send His son Jesus into the world to save us from our sins, and in doing so, we can then be with God forever and live how it was supposed to be. So, praise God that the Savior has come to save us to save us from our sins!

Robert Annan was born in Scotland in the early 1800's and was a natural swimmer, his friends called him the "Water Dog." As a young man he started to hang around the wrong crowd who pulled him down, which eventually led to spending 3 months in prison at the age of only 14. After he got out his father thought it would be a good idea to send him to America to get a fresh start. But soon the money was gone. He went to Canada, joined the British army, and ended up back in England, where he deserted. He finally turned himself in and then was severely punished.

After this he returned back to Scotland to party with his friends and just live for himself. And it was during this time that gospel meetings were taking place night after night in his town.

Robert went and was convicted of his sin. After the meetings, Robert was consumed with his sin, but didn't know how to be saved, so he went and knocked on a minister's door at midnight and asked him, "What must I do to be saved?" The pastor shared the gospel with him and pointed him to Christ for salvation. But, Robert for some reason was not ready.

That night he went to the hayloft back at his father's house. He stayed there for three days praying and wrestling with God. And at the end of those three days, Robert believed in Jesus Christ as his Savior. Robert was then greatly used by God as an evangelist. He would regularly lead groups of men to the streets to preach on the corners about his Savior.

Robert realized he was a sinner that needed a Savior, and that Jesus was the Savior of the world.

Third question, what was this baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a manger willing to do? Well, we get our answer from Philippians 2:5-11, "Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. ⁷ Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, ⁸ He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth—¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

This baby who came to be our Savior, took on flesh and became fully man, yet fully God; humbled Himself and was willing to be obedient to the Father by dying for us---on a cross. Immanuel, God with us, went to the cross; what an unbelievable thought that God would do that for you and for me. God who created mankind, left His throne in heaven to take our place (we are the sinners, not Him) and die a horrible death on a cross.

The humiliation He went through; He was spit on, slapped, made fun of, flogged almost to death, had a crown of thorns pressed on His head, had 7-9 inch nails driven through His hands and feet, had a spear driven into His side. Not to mention the agony He went through in the garden as He prayed knowing He was going to be separated from His Father. The Savior of the world came to do that for you and for me.

And since Jesus is God and knows all things, He knew what He had to go through and was willing to do it. Isaiah 53:3-6, "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering who knew what sickness was. He was like someone people turned away from; He was despised, and we didn't value Him. ⁴Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds. ⁶We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished Him for the iniquity of us all."

He willingly came, He willingly went to the cross, He willingly took our place, He willingly suffered for us, He willingly was tortured for us, He willingly died a criminal's death on a cross for us. Why? Because He loves us so much and wants us to be forgiven of our sins so that we can spend eternity with Him. He wants us to be with us forever, so He went to great extremes to make that possible. And again, He willingly did so. John 10:17-18, "This is why the Father loves Me, because I am laying down My life so I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from My Father."

So, who put Jesus on the cross? The Romans? The Jews? Jesus----Jesus put Himself on that cross for us. So, what was the Savior willing to do? Die. He was willing to give up His life, so that we could have life. We are the ones who deserve death because of our sins, but He took our place and sacrificed Himself for us, for my sins, and your sins.

Robert Annan that I mentioned earlier was a mason worker who worked down at the harbor. One day a young boy fell into the water and was drowning. Robert, the "Water Dog" jumped into to save him. Robert got to the boy, and swam the boy to a rescue boat that was nearby and handed him to them. They pulled the boy onto the boat and he survived, but somehow, Robert got caught in the waves and pulled under and died. Robert gave his life so that a young boy

could have his. He was willing to that. Just as Christ, the Savior of the world was willing to give His life for ours.

And here is the exciting last question: What did the Savior accomplish by coming? There's no way we can list everything, but here are a few things. Ephesians 1:7, "In Him (the Savior) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding." By Jesus going to the cross and dying for the sins of the world; we know can be forgiven of our sins. Access to God is now open through the cross. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice because He is a perfect Savior. So, through His death, burial, and resurrection, we now can be redeemed, meaning, bought back. So, instead of dying in our sin and going to hell, we are now reconciled to God through the blood of Jesus. So, this sin that has separated us from God, is now removed by the work of the Savior on the cross. And in Titus we see that through the Savior, people, you and me can now be clean, completely clean instead of all stained up by sin. Titus 2:14, "He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a people for His own possession..."

So, through the Savior, we can be holy, blameless, forgiven, free, cleansed, and His. We have been rescued from the domain of darkness and carried away into His light. Our future is bright now, instead of eternal separation from God, we get to be with Him forever. John 5:24, "I assure you: Anyone who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life."

And since we have been redeemed and are now His, that means we are in His family. We have been adopted into God's family through the Savior and nobody can snatch us from the Father's hand. Galatians 4:6-7, "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!"⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." We are children of God and get to have a relationship with the Father. We get to cry out to Him and He will hear us. We are His and through Him we know have the Holy Spirit in us because of Jesus. And through the Holy Spirit we can now have the fruit of the Spirit

in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. We can now tap into these things because of what the Savior has done for us.

So, instead of being separated from God because of our sin, we know can walk with Him again; and because of the Savior, God will never leave us nor forsake us. Instead of death, we get life. We're no longer slaves to sin, we are now free. Instead of torture in hell, we get to live in a place that Jesus has been preparing for us for thousands of years, a perfect place. We are no longer unforgiven, but forgiven. We are no longer lost, but found; no longer blind, but see. And instead of faraway from the Lord, we are His children who will be with Him forever. We now can have peace with God forever through the Messiah, through Jesus, through our Savior. And if that's not good news, I don't know what is. How good our Savior is to us! He came for us, to die for us, to give us everything!

John Newton was the son of a sea captain and by the age of eleven he was out to sea working with his father. As he got older he began to work as a slave trader. Through this type of life style, Newton concluded, "that there had never been a sinner as wicked as he and that his sins were too great and too many to be forgiven." At that point in his life he began to read the Bible and as he did, he knew he was a sinner in need of a Savior. He wrote in his journal, "I stood in need of an Almighty Savior, and such a one I found described in the New Testament." Newton put his trust in Jesus Christ as his Savior and eventually left the sea and the slave trade business and became a minister in England and later wrote the famous hymn, "Amazing Grace." Here are the first few lines that Newton wrote, "Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see." He was in need of a Savior and found One. Jesus saved him and changed his life forever. And before Newton passed away he said this, "My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior." And I think those words summarize everything that we have talked about this morning, all of us are great sinners, but Jesus is a great Savior!

So, Jesus has done everything for us. He came for us, He came to rescue us from our sins, He was willing to die on a cross for us, and through His death we can have forgiveness sins and eternal life. He's done everything for us to have life, but He does require one thing from us, and

that is belief. Almost 100 times in the book of John it says to believe in Jesus. And that means to trust upon, or depend upon. Believe, believe, believe; have you believed in Jesus? And a great story about belief is the story of Jesus and the woman at the well. We all know this story; Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well and says to her, "Give me a drink." He then tells her, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. ¹⁴ But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again—ever! In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up within him for eternal life." Jesus then tells her that He knows all things about her life and encourages her to believe in Him. After this she runs off to tell her friends and many of her friends believed. Scripture says, "Now many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of what the woman said when she testified, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ Therefore, when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of what He said. ⁴² And they told the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that **this really is the Savior of the world.**"

So, if you are here today and never believed, Jesus is ready to be your Savior. We're all sinners, but the antidote for sin--a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a manger. So, believe in the Savior; He came for you. He did everything, all you have to do is believe. If you've never done that, if you've never believed, if you've never put your trust in Jesus as your Savior, do that this very second and receive the best gift ever this holiday season----the gift of eternal life.

If you are here today and you've done that, then I would encourage you this morning to spend a few minutes, celebrating, praising, worshipping, and thanking Jesus for that He's done for you.

So, what is the good news of Christmas? Jesus left His throne in heaven and came to earth for us. To go to an old rugged cross for us. The Savior of the world has come for us, so that we could be saved; a simple truth, but oh so powerful and life changing it is!

Title: "The Savior of the World has Come!"

Text: Luke 2:11-14

Worship: "Let us worship our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ"

Preaching date: December 15th, 2019

Key Sentence: "The antidote for sin--a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a manger."

Outline:

- I. Who did the Savior come for? (Luke 2:11-14)
- II. Why did the Savior come? (Matthew 1:18-21)
- III. What was the Savior willing to do? (Philippians 2:5-11)
- IV. What did the Savior accomplish by coming? (Ephesians 1:7)

Notes:

1. Worship:
2. Lord's Supper week.
3. Children's Corner: "Douglas Talks about the Savior"
4. Visuals: Christmas theme (Bob)
5. Sign: "Sin was offered a Savior"

Luke 2:11-14

6. Bulletin: Stack 3, 19D10 "of His government and peace there....be no end"

My notes: Children's Corner-Douglas Talks, The Nativity