
First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth!

Message #3 in the sermon series

Silent Night, Holy Night

Sunday, December 14, 2025

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**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!**

⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! (Luke 2:9-11, NLT)

God's coming to earth in human flesh is the greatest event in human history; yet it was largely hidden from the world's view – at least at first. Not only is the story of Jesus' humble birth in Bethlehem the essence of the Christmas story, but it also signals the beginning of Christ's earthly ministry. Speaking to the shepherds, the angel declared that the baby was "a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11, NASB). The angel told the shepherds that this baby was the promised Savior, the Messiah and Lord over all. What a declaration!

Christ's coming in human form is called the incarnation; He was literally God in human flesh. As John put it, the eternal Word "became flesh and took up residence among us (John 1:14). This was an act of infinite humility, as Christ "emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men (Phil. 2:7). He who made the universe came into His own creation to save His people. This is the distinctive truth of the Christian faith: in Jesus, God came and dwelled among us. (Charles Kelley, Jr., Richard Land, and Albert Mohler, Jr.; *The Baptist Faith and Message*, page 41)

- ¹ In the beginning the Word already existed.
The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
- ² He existed in the beginning with God.
- ³ God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.
- ⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.
- ⁵ The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it. (John 1:1-5, NLT)
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- ¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
He existed before anything was created and is supreme over
all creation,
- ¹⁶ for through him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on earth.
He made the things we can see
and the things we can't see—
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen
world.
Everything was created through him and for him.
- ¹⁷ He existed before anything else,
and he holds all creation together. (Colossians 1:15-17, NLT)

4 things we learn about Jesus from this passage:

1. Jesus is fully God in a _____ body. (v. 15)

For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ.
(Colossians 1:19, NLT)

For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.
(Colossians 2:9, NLT)

- ¹ In the beginning the Word already existed.
The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

- ¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us.
(John 1:1,14 NLT)

2. Jesus existed _____ creation. (v. 15)

We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning,
whom we have heard and seen. (1 John 1:1, NLT)

3. Jesus is our _____. (v. 16)

³ God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. (John 1:3, NLT)

² And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. (Hebrews 1:2, NLT)

4. Jesus _____ all things together. (v. 17)

³ The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. (Hebrews 1:3, NLT)

²⁴ "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, ²⁵ and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. (Acts 17:24-25, NLT)

The full deity and full humanity of Christ are fundamental to true Christianity. The Bible affirms the preexistence of Christ – His existence with the Father before the creation of the world. Just before His crucifixion Jesus prayed to the Father, remembering "that glory I had with you before the world existed" (John 17:5). As with the Father, there never was a time when Christ did not exist – or will not exist.

The Bible also identifies Christ as the agent of creation: "All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created (John 1:3). In addition, Christ is the Lord over all creation, holding the entire universe together. As the Apostle Paul stated, "He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together" (Col. 1:17). The preeminence of Christ will be revealed to all people one day, but the church knows this truth and understands that this is the very center of our faith. (Charles Kelley, Jr., Richard Land, and Albert Mohler, Jr.; *The Baptist Faith and Message*, page 40)

²⁰ As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20-21, NLT)

¹⁰ He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. (John 1:10-14, NLT)

What makes Christianity different from the other major world religions?

The difference between the religions you've been studying and Christianity can be summarized in two words: Jesus Christ. He is the center and foundation of the Christian faith, and He also is the reason why Christianity is different from all the other religions that people follow.

Let me explain it this way. All the religions you've been studying have one thing in common: they all are searching for God (even if they don't call Him God, or they think there may be many gods and goddesses). They do this in a multitude of ways—but they're all trying to find God and gain His favor by their sacrifices and good deeds.

But Christianity is different. Instead of us searching for God—God is searching for us! Instead of us reaching up to God—God is reaching down to us! This is why Jesus is so important, because He came down from Heaven to do for us what we could never do for ourselves: bring us to God. God is perfect and holy, and we are separated from Him by our sins. No matter how hard we try, we cannot erase the stain of sin by ourselves. But by His death and resurrection Christ did this for us.

(<https://billygraham.org/answers/how-is-christianity-different-from-other-religions>)

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 1:8-10, NLT)