



2016: Week 51

Sunday, December 18th 2016

"The Narrow Way of Salvation"

Luke 2:11

"¹¹ For today in the city of David there has been born for you a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord" (NASB).

On Sunday, John preached from **Luke 2**, demonstrating from the text the necessity of Christ's birth. If God had not chosen to enter the world as a man, we'd all stand condemned before Him in our sin. We'd have no hope for forgiveness, reconciliation, or salvation. We needed a **Savior**, and Jesus became that for us. Although the Bible teaches that Jesus is the *only* way of salvation, our world does not. In fact, teaching an exclusive salvation *in Christ* is highly offensive to many cultures. Rather than getting caught up into arguments of what "he" or "she" or "you" think, why not allow the Bible to be authoritative in its own right? What does the Bible have to say on the matter of sin and salvation?

READ Luke 2:1-14

- What were the circumstances of Jesus' birth?
Where did it place?

Who was there? Who was not there?
- How was Jesus' birth good news for *all* people? (2:10)
- In **Luke 2:11** (verse referenced above), an angel informed to some shepherds that a newborn baby would be to them a "Savior."
What does it mean to be a *savior*?

In what way is Jesus a *savior*?
- Various objections to the Christian doctrine of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone include the following:
 - "Isn't Christianity too **narrow** to be right?"*
 - "How could Christianity be true if a majority of the world **rejects** it?"*
 - "Don't all religions basically teach the **same** thing?"*
 - "Won't God accept you if you're really **sorry** for your sin?"*
 - "All that matters is that you are **sincere** in what you believe"*
 - "It doesn't matter what you believe. **We'll all be okay** in the end"*
 - "Teaching one way of salvation is incredibly **arrogant**."*
- How might the following Scriptures address the previous objections?
 - 1 Timothy 2:5-6** "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time."
 - Acts 4:12** "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name (the name of Jesus) under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
 - Romans 3:23, 6:23** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 - Hebrews 9:22** "And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."
 - Isaiah 45:5** "I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God."
 - John 14:6** Jesus: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

FAMILY PRAYER: Thank you Lord for offering salvation through the shed blood of Your Son. Your plan is narrow, but that doesn't make it untrue. I am grateful that You did all the work in my salvation. I trust You— Jesus is **my Savior**! Amen