

Savior

12/24/2020

Scripture: [Luke 2:11](#)

Series: [Christmas Eve 2020](#)

By: [Colin Smith](#)

Merry Christmas. And thank you for choosing to celebrate Christmas Eve at The Orchard.

For the Christmas message this year, I want us to savor about what, I think, is the most beautiful name or title given to our Lord Jesus Christ.

The angel who appeared to the Shepherds said, *I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord* (Lk 2:10-11).

“Savior” is one of three titles given by the angel to Jesus. He is “Savior” He is “Christ” and He is “Lord”

“Christ” and “Lord” tell us who He is. He is the promised deliverer in whom all the families of the earth will be blessed (Gen 12:3). He is the sovereign Lord before whom every knee will one day bow (Phil 2:10). But “Savior” tells us what He does. The reason the coming of “Christ the Lord” into the world is good news of great joy for all people is that He was born as our **Savior**.

Matthew tells us that an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and announced two names or titles for the baby who was born.

*An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit...All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name **Immanuel**” (which means, God with us) (Matt 1:22-23).*

Notice the same pattern. Immanuel tells us who the baby is: God with us. The Creator of all things came down into the world that He made. God became a man, and He lives with us.

The baby to be born is the “Christ the Lord,” He is “Immanuel” God with us. Then the angel tells Joseph what He will do. *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name **Jesus**, for he will **save** his people from their sins* (Matt 1:21).

The name ‘Jesus’ means either “God saves” or “He will save.” The angel says to Joseph, You must give him this name: “Jesus” - “Savior,” because this is what He will do: He will save His people from their sins.

So in these titles, given by the angel, we have a very clear statement of who Jesus is: “Christ,” “Lord,” “God with us.” And a very clear statement of what He will do, He **saves**: *To you, a Savior is born.*

You shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins.

I want to make three observations on this wonderful name ‘Savior.’

Savior Means

1. We Have A Problem

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord* (Luke 2:11).

When the word ‘savior’ is used in our culture today, it is often used with negative associations. People speak about a ‘savior complex.’ That would be a person who thinks they can do for you what you cannot do for yourself. And that leads to the response, “Be my friend, be my ally, be my helper, but don’t try to be my savior because that would imply that you can do something for me that I can’t do for myself.”

The world, it seems does not want a savior, but according to the angel, a Savior is what we need. And when the angels tell us that Jesus is the Savior he is clearly telling them that we have a problem that we cannot fix and only Jesus can.

Now what is our problem? What is wrong with the world? Everyone has an opinion on that. But I want you to hear some words from the Bible that were probably written by King Solomon at the end of his life.

Solomon is an interesting character. He was born into a prominent believing family – the Son of David Israel’s great king. He was a man of great gifts, and great wisdom. He was also a man looking for answers to questions that he could not resolve and he wandered away from the faith he had once professed.

But later in his life, he came back to faith and in the book of Ecclesiastes he describes how he tried to make sense of life and of the world in which he lived. *Behold, this is what I found...God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes* (Ecc 7:27, 29). God made man upright. The knowledge of what was good and right was in him. Loving God came to Him naturally. so he lived in perfect freedom.

God made man upright. But something happened. God made man upright, **but they** have sought out many schemes. God made man upright, but we went looking for something else.

What is said here is the opposite of what was widely believed in the ancient world. In the Babylonian myths, the gods were responsible for the wickedness of men. “With lies, and not truth, they [the gods] endowed them forever”¹

¹ Cited from the Babylonian Theodicy in Derek Kidner, *A time to mourn, and a time to dance*, p. 73.

In the ancient world, most people believed that *the gods* were the ones who filled men with lies and if the gods are to blame, the hope must lie with us. **We** must fight back against these lies that the gods have fed us and discover the truth for ourselves. And this is largely what the world believes today: 'The problem lies outside of us and the answer lies within us.'

Do you see that the Bible says precisely the opposite. *God made man upright, but **they** have sought out many schemes.*

The problem lies within us, and so hope must come from *outside* of us. We have a problem that is our power to solve, so we need Someone to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. We need a Savior.

Years ago the London Times invited its readers to contribute letters answering the question 'What's wrong with the world?' Many thoughtful pieces were published, but the most insightful was also the shortest. It came from the writer G. K. Chesterton. He wrote, "'What's wrong with the world? Dear sirs, I am.' G. K. Chesterton."

1. We Have A Problem
2. God Must Give The Answer

*You shall call his name Jesus, for **he will save** his people from their sins (Matt 1:21).*

Saving people from their sins is something that no person who had lived before Jesus and no person who has lived after Jesus has been able to do. So, why should we believe that Jesus can do for us what no one else could do?

The answer is 'because He is unlike any other person who has ever lived.' This is where the other titles given to Jesus are so important: He is God with us. He is "Christ the Lord." He is able to do what He does, because He is who He is.

Jesus came to do for us what only God Himself can do. Only God could live a perfect life that fulfilled all righteousness. Only God could love an ungrateful world so much that He would lay down His own life for us. Only God could bear the full weight of justice for the sins of others.

Only God could lay down His life and take it up again. Only God could offer of full and free forgiveness for our sins. Only God could send His Spirit into the hearts of those who believe. Only God could gather a great company of redeemed people from every tribe and nation. And Only God could bring us into a new creation that will be the home of righteousness.

And this is what God has done and what He will do in Jesus Christ.

1. We Have A Problem.
2. God Must Give The Answer
3. Jesus Offers A Relationship

*You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save **his people** from their sins (Matt 1:21).*

Who will Jesus save? *He will save **His people**.* Clearly there is a relationship here. Those who are saved by Jesus are “His people.” They are wholly owned by the Son of God.

His people! Is this an exclusive group? No! The angel to the shepherds, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for **all the people**, (Lk 2:10).

Jesus offers Himself to all people. But here is what happened when He came into the world, *He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him. But to as many as did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God (Jn 1:11-12).*

Jesus offers Himself to all people. He offers Himself - all that He is and all that He does - to you this afternoon. If you receive Him. If you believe in His name, you will be one of “His people,” and He will save you from your sins.

If you will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ today, He will save you from the guilt of sin immediately, by His free forgiveness. He will save you from the power of sin gradually, by His Holy Spirit. He will save you from the presence of sin finally, by His glorious second coming.

Friends, there is good news of great joy for all of us today. The Savior has been born. He is “God with us.” He is “Christ the Lord.” And He will save His people from their sins.

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