

## Christmas Eve 2009

Good Evening; Welcome; My name; Special time

Let me encourage you to soak this up

To really tune in to this night, and this occasion, and this service . . .

And focus on the reason for which we celebrate, the love we share, the blessings we enjoy, and the goodness of God in all of it

The wrapping can wait, the dinner will still be there, and the fireplace still warm

So soak it up

And having done so, make sure it lingers long in your heart and soul

Ponder these things like Mary did that first Christmas

B/c there's no better way to have a merry Christmas

To that end, let's stand and worship Christ, the newborn King (Worship)

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(Right after the worship set . . . **Video – Retooning the Nativity**)  
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Despite all the trappings and traditions, the truth never gets old, does it? (**Background**)

The truth of Christmas that God stepped . . .

Out of eternity and into time; Out of heaven and onto earth

Out of power and into poverty; Out of majesty and into misery

Out of light and into darkness

All that, to eventually take up residence in our hearts; It never gets old

We may tire of traditions; And we may tire of *additions* – like a donkey, or an innkeeper, or shopping, or bills, or lights

Speaking of which, I'm getting to the point of dreading Christmas altogether, until I get the lights put up outside our house

And Becky too, b/c she has to put up with my whining

- Ad-ditions and tra-ditions I may tire of, but not the truth  
I never tire of that; And I certainly don't want to forget it

I want my attitude and mindset, and *our* attitude and mindset as a church – to be the same as the Psalmist's in **Ps 119:93**, where he says to God . . .

*I will never forget your precepts [your truths; your guidelines for living], for by them you have given me life. I am yours.*

I never want to forget the life-giving precepts of God

I never want to forget whose I am

I never want to forget the reason for the season, and how it all came about it

And b/c of that, I'm pretty sure I'll never tire of hearing it

I hope the same is true of you\*\*\*\*\*

- But if you've never embraced the truth, if you've never embraced *Jesus*, about whom the nativity tells . . .  
Then it's likely you not only tire of *hearing* it, but you might even chafe against it  
B/c nobody likes to hear something they don't like, let alone remember it

If that's you, can I encourage you to consider for a minute the *truth* about Christmas?

Just for a minute?

It's too important to shrug off, and too amazing to dismiss, just b/c you're tired of it

- Consider for a minute that something pretty significant *must* have been going on for *this* particular baby, among thousands of others, to have been born of a virgin . . .  
Announced by angels, foretold by prophets, opposed by kings, worshipped by magi . . .  
And marked by a “bloomin’ star”

Consider for a minute that at Christmas a Savior was born to bring . . .

**Hope to the hopeless**; Pardon to the guilty; Forgiveness to the sinful

Relief to the weary; Peace to the miserable; Joy to the downtrodden

Help to the helpless; Love to the lonely; Life to the dying

Rest to the tired – even those who are tired of the truth

Good News – to those who haven't had any

Consider for a moment that when you put it all together, it all adds up to good news of great joy, for *all* people – including *you*

For unto *us* was born that day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord

Your Savior, and your Lord – if you'll embrace him

If you'll embrace the truth of his life that began over 2000 years ago

The *Truth* that took on flesh, to provide a *Way* in a manger, & give us *Life* in himself

- The truth of Christmas never gets old b/c Jesus stepped out of . . .  
Eternity and into time – so *we* could step out of time and into eternity  
Heaven and onto earth – so *we* could step off of earth and into heaven  
Power and into poverty – so *we* could step out of the poverty of our *spirit*, and into the power of *his*  
Majesty and into misery – so *we* could step out of misery and into majesty

Traditions or not, it never gets old . . .

B/c the Light of the World stepped down into darkness, so we could step out of the

**darkness** (lights out; black screen) and into the light

The light of life, found only in Jesus Christ

- Pray (Light my candle; Leadership Team come forward; **Jn 8:12** on screen with black background and white words)
- (Leaders light candles; Rob remain on stage)  
Jesus said – *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*  
Stand for worship (*Here I Am To Worship; Silent Night*)

Close – God bless you; Sleep in heavenly peace

And have a **Merry Christmas/You Are Loved** (Blow out candles; Music)