

# Faith Bible Church



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# *Christmas Special 2011*

**Luke 1:78-79** Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high shall visit us, <sup>79</sup> To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.“

[The need for sustained thinking about these things in contrast to big feel-good messages as per KD; the horrible state of Christian thinking today; my job as pastor-teacher]



## **1. The Evil**

### **The Darkness**

- Evil of KD
- Denseness of Evil
- Extent of Evil, 1 Jn 5:19



## **2. The Grace**

### **The Sunrise**

- Tender Mercy of God
- Jesus Christ
- The Divider of the human race
- The only Dispeller of Evil



## **3. The Plan of God**

### **The Way of Peace**

- Great joy
- Glory, Peace
- Mary and Joseph
- Shepherds
- Simeon
- Anna

# THE EVIL

1. All men begin life in the darkness of Evil—the only question is for how long and to what extent. An understanding of the denseness and darkness of the evil as a system of kosmos diabolicus is lost to almost every person—including Christians. Evil is the policy and program of Satan that not only includes the demonic, savage, and brutal (e.g., Dahmer, Hitler, Stalin), but also the sweet, beautiful, the glitzy and glamorous, the “glorious” Hollywood idols, the educated, the sophisticated (e.g., Cain’s civilization, Tower of Babel, Babylon of Revelation)—indeed anything and everything that turns one’s eyes away from God and His Son Jesus Christ:  
**1 John 5:19: . . . the whole world lies in *keitai* of the evil one.** *Keitai* combines the idea of reclining or lying down with the idea of being in some realm of power. The definite article shows that this is talking about Lucifer, the originator and promulgator of the policy of evil. The entire masses of the unsaved world are in the lap of Satan. Lucifer has marinated billions of humans with evil. Traditional ideas of Christmas services have a great deal of evil in them. God’s Word is perfect!

# THE EVIL

2. The good news is that the Christian has been positionally delivered from the Evil One. However, God did not rescue us out of the darkness so we could turn around and go back into it.
  - ✓ **1 John 5:19** He who was born of God keeps him and the evil one does not touch [grab hold of] him. <sup>19</sup> We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.

“Touch.” Satan cannot get us into his clutches. Satan and his demons may tempt us, torment us, brainwash us, but he can never get us back into his clutches.
  - ✓ “*We are of God.*” Positionally, we are of God, safe from the ultimate clutches of Satan, John 10:28-29.
  - ✓ “*We are of God*” and therefore have all of the resources for both temporal and spiritual life, 2 Pet 1:4.

# THE EVIL

- ✓ **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light

# THE EVIL

3. Consider the Evil One's corruption of Christmas.
  - ✓ Dec. 25th was the birthday of the unconquered sun god. It was during this period that pagans partied for about two weeks with green trees and presents. It was not until 336 that this day declared an official holiday in the name of Christ.
  - ✓ The very name Christmas is from Christ and mass/Eucharist (1038).
  - ✓ The manger scene was started by Saint Francis of Assisi and was connected to the worship of Mary
  - ✓ Santa Claus was a 4th century bishop who gave away his possessions to the poor (but even he was defrocked by Pope Paul VI); Santa Claus was exported from Holland to America
  - ✓ Martin Luther was the first to have a lighted tree
  - ✓ Puritans called it Romish rags, & passed laws against it; and even made people work on Christmas.
  - ✓ Christmas was never celebrated by the Twelve.
  - ✓ What about us? The importance of balance and *thinking!*

# THE EVIL

4. Consider the Adversary's perversion of Christmas throughout society.
  - ✓ Satan continues to be very effective in distorting true Christmas. KD's Christmas has really nothing to do with Jesus Christ. What do you have if you take away the tree, the presents, and parties? Nothing! The occupation with gifts and parties and commercialism is a direct result of Satan's influence of kosmos diabolicus. KD's celebration of Christmas is neither Biblical nor Christian. It is a perversion of the true gospel and spirit of Christmas. It is one thing to accept Jesus as a sweet little baby, quite another to take Him as your Savior and Sovereign.

# THE EVIL

5. Consider the Adversary's perversion of Christmas.
  - ✓ Satan's failure to solve the problems of man is evidenced by the fact that KD's Christless Christmas season is the most depressing time of the year. There is greater emotional stress and more acts of violence than any other time. All of the excuses in the world to get drunk, have a party, be indulgent, get out of school, be miserable, bored, and a glutton does nothing to bring peace, stability, light, and fullness of life.
  - ✓ Christ and Bible doctrine are the only ways for man to be temporally free the clutches of kosmos diabolicus. No amount of alcohol, education, culture, approbation, religion or morality can fulfill man. The problem is spiritual. The problem is lack of spiritual thinking.

# THE EVIL

6. The question of evil is the most important and profound question facing every person. Evil is extremely difficult to understand. It takes understanding on so many levels, theological, philosophical, metaphysical. Very few ever come close to grasping what evil is, yet it makes up so much of their worldview and mindset. Takes serious effort mentally, philosophically, and spiritually. Requires serious effort—much reflection!

# THE EVIL

7. Understanding Evil is difficult and painful work. We naturally cringe from it. We all like to avoid the problem of evil. No one likes to confront it. If we do not discipline ourselves in thinking about it, our minds will gradually drift away and become marinated in evil. We need much focus. The origins and nature of evil are tethered to understanding God and the Plan of God for your life. God has a unique destiny for each believer.
8. Evil, not sin, is the single greatest problem in our lives. Yet, virtually no one really understands it on a metaphysical level—which means they do not really understand Good, God, or the Plan of God.

# THE EVIL

9. It is staggering how blind man can be to Evil, cf. Ecclesiastes.
10. Evil at its root is rottenness of good; it is a corrupted good. This is what makes it so dangerous
11. Generally there are two existential advances a person must make before he effectively moves out of temporal evil.
  - a. He must understand evil—the frantic search for happiness as typified by making things gods. This is recognizing the evil/vanity, cf. Ecclesiastes. A person usually has to suffer a great deal before he realizes of the vanity of life without God. Their suffering may be just (Samson, Saul, John the Baptist) or unjust (Mary of Bethany, Job).
  - b. He must find God. He must find he way into loving God more than the kosmos (evil), 1 John 2:15. We see this in Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Simeon, Anna, Apostle Paul all loved God more than the details of life.

# THE EVIL

## 12. Characteristics of a person dominated by kosmos diabolicus:

- ✓ A kosmic-filled rather than Christ-filled Christmas.
- ✓ Lack of consciousness of God in the life. A life indifferent to God.
- ✓ Life of vain glory and frantic search for happiness in “hopes” for some next new thing to make life better.
- ✓ Zombie life with no realization of true self.
- ✓ Diversions—busyness to cover up emptiness; no time to think about the Ultimate Questions.
- ✓ Lack of reflection on true self—lives like a animal; it is all about the physical appetites: physical, sexual, and approbation lust from KD.
- ✓ Brainwashed by the propaganda of kosmos diabolicus.
- ✓ Life to them is not about God; it is about the glamor and the glitz, the fame, some new thing that promises to do the “trick.”
- ✓ “Positive thinking” philosophy. Pick your own truth. “I decide what is right.”

## THE EVIL

13. Evil always opposes Jesus Christ and the things of God—consciously or unconsciously (e.g., remaking of Christ through ritualism or religion).

**John 3:19** "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> "For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds

## The Grace of God

1. God's marvelous matchless grace, Luke 1:78-79. The Tender Mercy of God (σπλάγχνα ἐλέους θεοῦ ἡμῶν) incarnated in Christ, the Sunrise refers to the mission and issue of Christ's coming. There is nothing deeper, nothing wider, nothing truer about the mission and issue of Christ's coming that could be spoken.
2. Christ is the only Sunrise who dispels darkness and evil. This was the last prophecy, announced after some four hundred centuries of silence, Mal. 4:2. Christ is represented as the Sun—represented as rising over a darkened earth, and yet not just shining from on high but *visiting* us.

## The Grace of God

3. 1 Corinthians 1:27 “but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,<sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are,<sup>29</sup> that no FLESH should boast before God.”

## The Grace of God

4. Apart from the Light of Christ we would have no clue about the nature of God. He would be as dark to us as the outer space. The light of God came into our world from on high. He has visited us, and walked among us. He is the life-star.

## The Grace of God

5. Christ is the Light of the world. Darkness speaks of evil and its ignorance, so Christ, as the Sun illumines us with the light of “the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
6. Christ shows us that God is living Person who has tender mercy, compassion, and love.
7. “He visited us.” This term is used throughout the OT to describe divine acts of self-revelation, mostly redemptive acts. Earlier in this song (1:68), it is used of God coming to us when Christ comes to us.

# The Plan of God

1. The Sun visits and becomes the universal Light and the special light for our feet and a lamp for our path. He is our only light.
2. Only Christ can put us at peace with God. Peace of reconciliation with God is the foundation of all other tranquility in life.
3. God's peace continues throughout the midst of adverse circumstances of life—through Jesus Christ and the doctrine He provides.
4. Christ gives peace because He gives satisfaction in life. This occurs when He becomes the chief desire of our hearts. This path is the path of wisdom. This path is ordered by the footsteps of God's Word. Where He goes, we go, and what He commands, we do.

## The Plan of God

5. Christ is not only our Light for *positional* deliverance from evil, He is our Light from *temporal* deliverance from the darkness of evil.

John 8:12, "I am the Light of the world. He that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of life.

6. Luke 2:1-6. Consider the Light Christ brings by revealing to us that He controls history and has a personal plan for each of our lives, Eph. 1:11. God is just as involved in your life as He was in Joseph's and Mary's. Now it is just a matter of trusting Him.
7. Advancement in the Plan of God excludes all human viewpoint solutions. There is no excuse for any believer to think that the solutions to the problems of life are found in self-reformation or change of environment.

## The Plan of God

8. “She gave birth,” Luke 2:7. At the birth of the LJC, the second Person of the Trinity *became* God-man, Isa. 9:6-7; Jn 1:1, 14.
- ✓ God stepped out of heaven and into our world and with that descent united Himself with man forever, Philip. 2:5-11. He did not lose any deity in becoming man. He remained eternal God. What an odd and humble way for God to come into the world! Why not the Temple in the midst of all of the grand religious furnishings? Why a feeding trough? Why the obscurity?
  - ✓ “Cloths” refer to strips of cloth. They were used of burial bandages (σπαργανόω, sparganoo).

# The Plan of God

## 9. Luke 2:8-9: the Shekinah Glory (δόξα κυρίου).

- ✓ The glory of God refers to Esse. It is a manifestation of God's presence and holiness. The manifestation of God's presence is no longer within the secret shrine of the Holy of Holies. The angels and the shepherds now stand in this circle of light. This glory of God glows in the dark and comes to hallow all common life.
- ✓ *Terribly frightened.* The fear was well founded. It is not just because of the bright light of the Shekinah glory, it is because of the holiness of God. Only with the presence of the LJC is there never anything to fear before God.

# The Plan of God

10. Luke 1:10: *Do not be afraid* . Present middle imperative of *phobeo* with the negative adverb signifying action which is already taking place and which they are producing. *Phobeo* means to terrify, frighten, to strike with fear, to dread, to be alarmed or be anxious of some danger. Imperative mode.

- ✓ Because *there has been born for you a Savior* there is no longer any reason for fear. God has entered our world in a real way, the Word *became flesh* , a Savior was *born for us*. God has become God-man forever (Heb 2:14; 12:2; 13:6). He has come just as God promised for thousands of years.
- ✓ Without God there are plenty of reasons for fear. The solution for man is not to shut his eyes to the evils and dangers which surround him. Satan has done a brilliant job in blinding the world to the dangers of darkness, evil, and an eternal Hell. To live a godless life without fear is insanity.

# The Plan of God

## 11. Luke 1:10: *Do not be afraid*

- ✓ God is the only true antidote to fear. It is a waste of breath to say do not fear and yet not remove the occasions of fear. Consider the faith of all of those at the first Christmas. Consider all of the negativities Mary and Joseph faced. They too would have to live by faith. Consider the faith that he had in accepting the baby as the SOG - in the face of mocking friends and family. Consider how many looked at him as a very gullible and stupid man. He had to walk by faith every step of the way to overcome the degeneracy of his time. Furthermore, Joseph was a poor man, Luke 2:24. Only the Word of God could allay his fears.

# The Plan of God

## 12. Luke 1:10: ***Do not be afraid.***

- ✓ Fear in the life of a believer is irrational & irresponsible. It is the antithesis of faith, Ps 56:3-4. Fear only sees the problem. Faith sees the problem with the solution. Fear emphasizes the problem whereas faith emphasizes the solution. Fear is occupation with the problem. Faith is occupation w/Solution to the problem - *the battle is the Lord's*. The sin of fear breaks down the SL. It can take destroy you spiritual momentum and move you into reversionism very quickly because of its ability to distract. Anytime you live in fear you can be sure that you are not under FHS. The SL provides both the solutions (1 Tim 1:17) and the Solver (1 Jn 4:18). Fear disorients the believer to his sense of destiny. It distracts the believer from the WOG and PPOG. Fear destroys capacity for love, life, and happiness. Fear destroys capacity for the blessings of God. Fear is self-induced misery. Fear eats away at spiritual courage. It will make a coward out of the strongest. It destroys spiritual strength & the virtues of SL, 1 Tim 1:17.

# The Plan of God

## 13. Luke 1:10: ***Do not be afraid***

- ✓ The believer who truly walks with God is fearless precisely because God is with Him (Deut. 31:6-8; Psa. 3:5-7; 56:2-4, 9-11; Isa. 41:10; Heb. 11:27). The incarnation made it possible for God to be with us in a greater way than before (John 16:7; 1 Cor. 6:19; 1 John 4:4). You can now face life with absolute confidence

## The Plan of God

14. “Good news of a great joy, εὐαγγελίζομαι ὑμῖν χαρὰν μεγάλην (2:10).” The incarnation and all that it entails has to be the purest fountain of joy from which the world has ever drunk. It is great news that the Father did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, John 3:17. The angels are ecstatic, yet it does not even involve them! What a shock to the angels: To see the Creator of heaven and earth become a baby destined to die for earthlings totally shocked them. They observed the essence of God but they had never seen such love. Imagine the disbelief of Satan. He cannot believe His “eyes.” The night was filled with music as angels stood by man singing praises to the Lord.

## The Plan of God

15. A Savior (σωτήρ), 2:11. This is everyone's greatest need. God provided for our salvation in a most remarkable way. This baby was born and destined to be the great Sacrifice. He is our Deliverer, Sacrifice, and Redeemer. Consider Luke 2:30-35; 2 Cor. 5:21.
- ✓ *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...*, 1 Tim 1:12-16. This is the true and pure Biblical perspective of Christmas. This is why the angels sang and the shepherds were filled with great joy. Jesus Christ came and revealed God; He came to teach us the way of God; He came to show us how live for God. However, above all He came to save us sinners. This is what Christmas is all about.

## The Plan of God

16. Christ (χριστὸς), 2:11. This is the name of His office. He is the Anointed One, the Figure that arose before the OT saints, prophets, and psalmists. He is the One in whom all the prophets and angels have so eagerly searched for (1 Pet 1:10-12). He is the Anointed One, the prophet, priest, and king. He is the Anointed One to bear the sins of mankind. Christ is God's only Anointed One. To believe that Jesus is the Christ is to believe that He is God's only Anointed One who came as the Ultimate One to put away sin and bring man to heaven. If Jesus be not the Christ, then His death means nothing. The Bible emphasizes that it was *Christ* who died for us (Acts 17:3; 1 Pt 3:18; 4:1) and *Christ* was raised from the dead, 1Cor 15:20.

## The Plan of God

17. The Lord (κύριος), 2:11. This points to deity and is the ultimate name of dignity. This is God Himself. Every knee will bow when He comes back as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Philip 2:10-11). All will acknowledge Him as Lord sooner or later. He is the Master of the world. He is the Sovereign of our lives and of our universe. Never stop at the manger or even at the crucified maimed Christ at Calvary; do not stop at His manhood. Do not stop at the nobility of his soul or the beauty of His character. These in themselves will be insufficient for your needs. You need Someone who is able to help. You need a Lord, Jn 20:28; Acts 2:47. A savior was born, that speaks of humanity; the Christ, that speaks of Messiahship, the Lord, that speaks of deity. He is the Perfect God-man.

# The Plan of God

18. Glory to God in the highest, Lk 2:14.

- ✓ Christmas is about the wisdom and glory of God (Lk 2:7-14, 20). This glory is now in us.
- ✓ The glory of God is the luster of His own perfect character, the sum total of all the blended brilliancies that comprise His name
- ✓ All *glory to God* is a result of His divine work of grace in us. The working of God's power in the believer will result in attributing glory to God. This announcement is a foretelling of God's great work in the souls of His children.
- ✓ Man's chief end is to glorify God, 2 Pet 1:3. We are here for the glory of God. We are not here for our own glory.
- ✓ The greatest display of God's glory is in Christ. The angels learn of the glory of God through the church, Eph 3:10. We glorify God in the CA by living the supernatural spiritual life.
- ✓ *Glory to God in the highest*. The Great Incarnation displayed God's grace, love, and mercy in a way the angels had never witnessed. They sang in wonder to see such Love stoop so low.

# The Plan of God

19. "On earth peace with whom He is please" (καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκίας). The song drops from contemplation of the nature of God to contemplation of what this means for man. They now see the babe and recognize that God has come to bring man divine peace. Christ came to bring us peace with God, our circumstances and with each other (believers).
- ✓ This does not refer to earthly or world peace or even peace in one's family.
    - **Matthew 10:34-38** "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> "For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; <sup>36</sup> and a man's enemies will be the members of his household. <sup>37</sup> "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>38</sup> "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me
  - ✓ Christ came to bring peace between God and man. He is the Prince of Peace in this respect.

# The Plan of God

- ✓ What a contrast to what the angels have observed through the ages of history. Christ's work is to bring peace between God and man, between believer and believer, and between believer and all of his circumstances. All of the discord, strife, and unrest are brought about by sin and only the removal of sin can rectify the problems. The God-man brings peace with God, ourselves, with one another.

# The Plan of God

20. Human responses, Luke 2:15-38. What it all means!
- a. The Shepherds, 2:15, 20. As true possessors of truth they naturally tell others. Such *epignosis* could not be silenced.
  - b. The masses of humanity, 2:18. Short-lived and barren astonishment (θαυμάζω).
  - c. Mary, 2:19. What a wonderful young lady. She loved the WOG. She loved BD. She kept these things (συντηρέω and συμβάλλω) in her heart and as a result they shaped and molded her life. If we fill our hearts with God's truth then we will think, speak, and live out of a such a filled heart.
  - d. Simeon (2:25-32) is considered Mr. Nobody. However, he was OWC. Old man about to die. This is his dying grace: the Messiah in his arms before he dies.
  - e. Simeon's face to face prophecy to Mary, 2:34-35. "For the fall" = for the destruction, both in time and eternity. "Sign" = distinguished mark. Christ leaves no one neutral. Same Christ with different effects on different people. Christ like no other reveals the volition of each man's soul.
  - f. The rest of the NT demonstrates the fact that those who accept Jesus Christ will rise (sinners, prostitutes, those who recognize their need for grace); those who reject Him will fall (the SR, the independent, those who love evil more than good). This is true of unbelievers and for believers as well.
  - g. Anna. Elderly woman filled within inner beauty because of OWC.