

THE MARVELOUS MATCHLESS INCARNATION AND ITS DOCTRINAL LESSONS, LUKE 2



Today in the town
of David a Savior
has been born
to you; He is
Christ the
Lord.

Luke 2:11

Preparation for Bible Class

THREE FUNDAMENTALS FOR A HEALTHY CHRISTIAN LIFE



Life beyond gnosis



Life beyond gnosis



1) Salvation

Rom 5:1-2

2) Fellowship

1 John 1:3-9

3) Spiritual Growth

2 Pet 3:17-18

- 1) No believer can love and serve God if he is indifferent to his so great grace salvation or if he lives in fear that he might go to Hell.**
- 2) No believer can love and serve God if he consistently lives out of fellowship with God---which means he simply lives for himself under the OSHGEN.**
- 3) No believer can love and serve God if he is not consistently growing in grace and knowledge/BD. Coasting is not an option. Each believer is either enjoying a robust growing SL or a suffering from a deteriorating rev. SL.**

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Luke 2:1-3

1. **Christmas is about God's faithfulness in working out redemptive history sovereignly and faithfully according to his Word.** Each believer should pause and reflect on God's faithfulness in his own life. God controls history, and this plan was in the making billions of years ago.
 - ✓ **Galatians 4:4** But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman,
 - ✓ **Micah 5:2** " But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."
 - ✓ **1 Peter 1:10-11** As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful search and inquiry, ¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

Luke 2:1-3

- 2. While the believer should never be surprised that God is always faithful, he should expect to be surprised in just *how* God will fulfill His marvelous grace plan for his life, (Eph 3:20; 1 Cor 2:9; Rom 8:28-30). This plan was nothing short of miraculous and certainly surprising for Mariam on many fronts.**
- 3. Never allow the political system of KD to distract you from your God-given destiny. God is never limited by who is in power, Rom 13:1-14. Consider how many *zealous* Jews blew it due to Rome.**
- 4. The reality is that most people throughout history live in the darkness of the kosmos and live out their entire lives intellectually and spiritual blunted with respect to the living God and His marvelous plan. Most are just too caught up in Kosmos diabolicus, Lk 1:78-79. God told His people that the Messiah would come at that time, to that place, and from that lineage, yet no one is seriously looking.**

Luke 2:4-7

- 5. The Grand Incarnation took place in extremely difficult circumstances, yet, it was God's perfect time.** Apostate Israel is under the 4th cycle of discipline. Mary and Joseph lived in a country full of turmoil. They were slaves of Rome and their own people had become legalistic, SR, and apostate. Yet, Joseph and Mary continued to focus on God's plan for their lives. They not only had to deal with their apostate nation, they had to endure personal scandals, shame and embarrassment. Yet, they knew God was still in control. God has a marvelous way of taking us from where we are to where He wants us to be and become. Think of the 90 mile journey, the unfair hassles---no place in the *kataluma*; yet, we have not a hint of self-pity. Mary is a wonderful young lady whose soul is filled with Bible doctrine (cf. Luke 1:38-55)---she knows God is in control.

Luke 2:4-7

- 6. Mary and Joseph were doctrinal giants.** They knew the Word together and they knew the POG. This is what held them together. They had absolute unshakeable faith in the promises of God. They knew they were RM-RW. They knew that if it was good enough for God, it is good enough for them. Christmas is a reminder of the Incarnation and the importance of staying focused on the Plan of God regardless of the circumstances of life. They lived in the reality of their destiny together!

Luke 2:7-9

7. **The incarnation is nothing less than the Eternal Son of God entering our realm by adding to His nature a human nature.** This is the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. The Lord-Child-Savior is the Deliverer from evil, sin and judgment and the Endower of good as per justification, righteousness and sanctification. His very name means Yahweh saves.
- ✓ **Hebrews 10:5** Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, But a body Thou hast prepared for Me;
 - ✓ **Philip 2:5-8** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
 - ✓ **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Luke 2:7-9

- 8. Consider the contrast between the humility of the Eternal Son and Satan's attitude of arrogance, Isa 14:12-15.** How incredible! How can any believer think that God is not concerned with His life? Look at what He did for you! He will remain humanity forever. We are joined to the most amazing and compassionate God you can imagine! The Greatest Person who ever lived was born in an animal feeding trough. Not a pretty sight according to man's standards! What grace! What humility! He laid hold of us in a very real way. He understands the daily battles because He entered into our world. The baby laying helpless in the cradle is at the same time holding the universe together (Col 1:16-17; Heb 1:3). He stepped into the world and honored those that the world dishonored and devalued, namely the shepherds, the young couple, and old Simeon and Anna.

Luke 2:7-9

9. **The Shekinah Glory in the fields.** What a glorious circle of light. Light from the inner sanctum of heaven now beams around them. The very presence and glory of God surrounds them in a shrine out in the open field. This is all before the elect and fallen angelic host. The glory of God has brought the gospel for all classes and ranks. The Shekinah glory, the symbol of divine presence, is no longer within the secret shrine of the Holy of Holies. It is the incarnation of deity that makes the birth of JC so significant. The Shekinah Glory is out in the open field glowing in the darkness and appearing to sinful man!

10. **The Shekinah Glory to the social outcasts.** The shepherds were banned by the priests, they were lonely, some were homeless, ostracized by the religious leaders and society in general. God always comes to those who really need Him.

Luke 2:10

11. **The good news of great joy.** This is the true spirit of Christmas. Not joy about getting stuff, or being stuffed, and not just joy, but great joy---great joy in the Lord. It is spiritual joy related to the restoration of a relationship with God. It really is all about man's relationship with God.

12. **"Fear not!"** Because the Messiah has now come there really is nothing to fear in this evil world. The Hope of centuries has been fulfilled before their eyes. The incarnation removes any need for dread of the Unseen God.

13. **This great joy is only possible in the grace plan of God.** Why are so many during this season so depressed, worn out, broke and ready for it to be over? It is fellowship with God which always fills the life with joy
 - **Psalm 16:11** Thou wilt make known to me the path of life; In Thy presence is fulness of joy; In Thy right hand there are pleasures forever.

Luke 2:10

14. This supernatural spiritual joy is not dependent upon circumstances and as a matter of fact gloriously *thrives* in difficult times,

- **1 Peter 1:7-8** that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
- **Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your forbearing *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:18** in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- **Ephesians 5:20** always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

Luke 2:10

15. The inexpressible joy of Jesus Christ can overcome any difficulty, depression, or discouragement and turn sorrow into praise of God for all of His grace. The CWL is a life of great sacred joy. This is what every believer's life should be like. We are going to live with Christ forever and ever, what could be greater than being with the LJC? The SL is a life of enjoying supernatural glorious joy. Only God can bring us this supernatural joy. It is the kosmos, legalism, and human good that kill supernatural joy. It is the attempt to anchor your joy on the details of life that leads to frustration.

Luke 2:11

16. Magnificence of the Messiah: Savior, Christ, and Lord. As Savior, He delivers us from the Evil One and power of evil and endows us with power and righteousness. As Christ, He is God's qualified one. As Lord, He is deity and brings authority. Christ changes everything:

- **Titus 2:13** looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

17. Christ, the Savior is God's Perfect Gift to all of mankind---He is the secret to every blessing and every happiness for time and for all eternity. God, in His infinite love and grace, provides everything for us to have an eternal relationship with Him. God's grace plan is realized through Jesus Christ.

Luke 2:11

18. God provided this Gift of the Eternal Son becoming true humanity to be our substitute and pay the penalty for our sins---and provide eternal security, Jn 1:12; 10:28, 31; 19:30; Rom 8:32; 5:10; 2 Tim 2:13; 1 Pet 1:3-5; Eph 2:8; 2 Cor 5:17.

- **Matthew 20:28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
- **1 Peter 3:18** For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- **John 19:30** When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.
- **Romans 8:38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Luke 2:12-14

19. The heavenly host filled with praises to God and wishes of peace to mankind. The angels have been waiting for thousands of years and would give anything to trade places with us. The angels stand alongside man - at man's side. There were crowded forms all around, every face shining with a wondering gladness and an eager sympathy with men as each lip sung forth new praises to God. This new praise to God reflects the revelation of new aspects of His nature as revealed to man: His grace, His love, His holiness, His righteousness, His condescension. The praises of God are coming from the ranks of the angels beside the shepherds. They sing a hymn about the blessed results of the mystery of the wonderful incarnation of God.

Luke 2:12-14

20. The angelic song in reference to man is summed up in one word: peace.

There is peace upon all who are rightly related to God. People will disappoint you, gifts will never fulfill you; God will never disappoint you or forsake you; He will always fulfill you. Christmas is about the priceless gift of peace and happiness in JC. This is all possible because of grace. What a word to bring in the midst of strife, discord, and unrest on our evil and sin-ridden planet. Christ's work is to bring peace into all human relations, those with God, with men, with circumstances, and with ourselves. All relations are marred by sin---most particularly the noetic effects of sin.

Luke 2:14

21. Grasping the significance of glorifying God, 2:14. This was the first praise evoked. It brings glory to God because by it new aspects of His nature are revealed to man. When man sees the very nature of God he cannot help but trust and adore Him. To know His power, His holiness, His goodness, His grace, His love, His condescending Love stooping to be born makes us think more loftily of God and praise Him. With the incarnation a whole new world of possibilities and human worth before God is possible. Consider what we have studied in David and Paul's great personal love for God.

Lk 2:15-17, 20

- 22. Natural response of true faith, 2:15-17.** The conduct of the shepherds illustrates the natural impulse of all those who really possess truth---i.e. life beyond gnosis. They spoke out of an overflowing heart that was filled with truth, joy and celebration. These are the natural impulses of true possessors of the Truth. The shyest could not have kept it in. Do we have a less wonderful or needful message? If the spectators of the manger could not be silent, how about us who possess the truths of the Cross?
- 23. Believers often start out with great enthusiasm when they first really grasp the realities related to Jesus Christ and the Grand Incarnation, 2:15-17.** They just want to tell everyone about the marvelous grace of God: no more guilt, shame, or fear of God. All taken away.

Lk 2:15-17, 20

24. **Unfortunately most believers, sooner or later, return to the mess from which they came and go back to loving the kosmos with all of its chimeras (1 Jn 2:14-15; Js 4:4-6; 2 Pet 2:22; most of the believers from Genesis to Revelation).** Instead of the CCL, they live the SCL---thou sometimes under guise of Christ. The ministry of HS is critical!!!!

25. **However, there is always a remnant of winner doctrinal believers who are truly interested in seeking God and His truth for a lifetime—and not as means to gaining more of the kosmos.** Winner believers are habitually mindful that they have been saved and rescued out of darkness and into the marvelous light by the wonderful of grace, 1 Pet 2:9. God did not save us and turn around and give us a miserable life of shame and guilt. He delivered us from fear, guilt, and sin. He gave us a new life to glorify JC. Consider how well the Lord has taken care of you from calling you into His family to preserving you through so many evils. Your life is indeed in the hands of God. God has a purpose for your life that far exceeds any discomfort in life.

Luke 2:18

26. Unfruitful response of a barren wonder (πάντες οἱ ἀκούσαντες ἐθαύμασαν), **2:18**. They did what too many do, wonder but stop there---after Bible class not another thought, except as it might “benefit” them. It was only superficial; it never sunk beneath the surface of their souls. Its wonder soon died out and they remained unaffected by it in thought or action.

27. Deep response of personal reflection---OWC, Luke 2:19 But Mary treasured (συνετήρει) up all these things, pondering them in her heart (συμβάλλουσα ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτῆς). What deep thoughts the mother of the Messiah, were hers alone. We all have the same duty to truth. Unless we too treasure God’s truth in our hearts and by steady and constant reflection make them our own, we will be affected very little by them. A surface, non-meditative attitude to truth produces a very shallow life with God. Only when we hide His Word in our hearts and reflect upon it often, can we speak of the truth out of a full heart, and genuinely rejoice in the Truth.

Luke 2:19

- 28. The child she delivered would deliver her.** A lot to ponder. Did she think about her being the fulfillment of Gen 3:15, that He would walk on water, that He would one day rule the nations, and be the Lamb of God? So much to ponder. How many Christians really ponder about the real meaning of Christmas and the countless other fantastic doctrines?
- 29. Unless we too treasure truth in our hearts there will be very little transforming power.** A non-meditative relationship with the Lord and His Word can only lead to a shallow spiritual life. But if we hide His word in our hearts, and often draw out our treasure to count and weigh, we shall be able to speak out of a full heart. What we need is not some fancy word or doctrine by some preacher to wake us up and shake us out of lethargy. We need to grasp the Word & so grasp TLJC! 2 Cor 5:14-21. Truth must be meditated on before one can appreciate it, grip it, and allow it to grip and mold the life.

Luke 2:25-32 – Winner Believer: Simeon

- 30. Winner believer Simeon, Lk 2:25-35.** To the world he was a nobody. However, look at the incredible amount of doctrine that he was oriented to and that was further revealed to Him. He was a hero of heroes, one looking for the Messiah. Through the ministry of the HS he was living in the power of God and had reached maturity. There were not many like him at this time in history. He was the embodiment of what God had so patiently sought through millenniums of providential dealing and inspiration. He is what God intended to secure by the whole previous processes of Revelation. He understands that the incarnate Christ is the only True Consolation, 2:25. How long there had been since *pax Israeli*? How long since God had spoken through the prophet Malachi? How long have they groaned under the bondage of imperial Rome? How many messiahs had let them down? The people's faith had eroded into skepticism and formalism. There was hardly a trickle of faith and vitality. Many were going through the motions but had no real hope. But Simeon represented the remnant who was looking for God's consolation. He was eagerly waiting for divine comfort. Only when we are broken and suffer brokenness of heart do we really seek God's comfort. This phrase came to be used specifically for the Messiah because only the Messiah could bring consolation to a whole nation.

Luke 2:33-35

31. Attitude to Christ reveals more about our spiritual life than any other single thing, Lk 2:33-35. Simeon prophesied that Christ would reveal the true nature of man and this mission would cause her a pain that would be like a sword slicing through her very own soul. The people of God had been waiting for eons. Simeon had waited all of his life but for the longest time there was not a peep out of God. Then God broke through time and made a promise to Simeon. He kept that hope in his heart day after day. He would continue to come to the temple, week after week, year after year, and ask about the Messiah. When he uses the word *Lord*, he uses the term for absolute sovereign (despota). He is exclaiming absolute abject submission. He is certainly expressing his attitude toward God. Christ enables us to face death with peace, 2:29. This is Simeon's glad recognition of the fact that the appointed time has come and his days were drawing to an end. He does not even call it death. The term *depart (Nunc Dimittis)* is a technical word for relieving a sentry from his post.

32. Winner believer Anna, 2:36-38. Super grace lady with great inner beauty God not only blesses but continues to use winner believers, 2:38. It is critically important in the later phases of life to continue looking forward; otherwise, life will be one of sadly looking back instead of joyfully looking forward. She is a very old woman but has a great deal of inner beauty. Tradition tells us that she is about 106 years old. It is acknowledged that one of the hardest tests in life is losing your spouse. Some Christians fall apart, while other get more serious about their spiritual lives.

33. God has a perfect plan for everyone---and each believer should ask himself where he is in Luke 2. Are you among the those filled with God's joy? Are you among those who only had a short lived amazement? Are you among the religious? This joy is for all, from the young to the very old, because of the LJC. Every time we open the WOG and learn about Him and His marvelous Son and the plan for our lives we gain greater capacity for personal love for God and thus truly able to praise Him for the Incredible God that He is.