

The Reason for the Season!

Luke 2:1-38

Sermon given on December 24, 2024

Calvary Chapel French Valley

Christmas Eve Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

# The Reason for the Season

## Luke 2:1-38

﻿**Opening Comments**

* Turn to **Luke 2**
* Merry Christmas and welcome to our Christmas Eve service.
* Tomorrow is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus.
* There was a time when it was considered normal for someone to wish you a Merry Christmas and you would reply in kind.
* Now to be politically correct, we are told we should wish people something like ‘Happy Holidays’.
* The very thought of this is offensive to many Christians.
* But in reality non-Christians were celebrating on December 25th long before Christians claimed it as the birthday of the Savior of the world.
* And the fact is that we don’t even know for certain that Jesus was born on December 25th.
* If we were to be honest, they have just as much a right to engage in their celebrations as we do.
* This message is not about waging some kind of war to make non-Christians acknowledge that Christmas is about Jesus.
* It is about how we celebrate this holiday.

### Teaching

* **The Reason for the Season**
* Jesus is, for Christians, the reason for the season.
* It is during this time that we pause from the busyness of life and remember that God came to the world in the form of a little child.
* And tonight I would like to look at the reason for the reason of the season.
* Luke 2 is the classic text we use for teaching the birth of Christ.
* Says more about His birth than any of the other gospels.
* **Luke 2:1-7**
* God the Son, Creator of heaven and earth was born to a poor woman in the little town of Bethlehem in the humblest of conditions, in the place where they kept the animals at night.
* That wasn’t by accident.
* He was born in this lowly way so that no one was so low that they couldn’t reach Him.
* Heaven couldn’t help but respond to this glorious event.
* **Luke 2:7-20**
* Shepherds were not esteemed very highly.
* They were some of the most common people in the land.
* But God in His infinite wisdom, made the announcement of this amazing event to them first.
* We will look at three testimonies regarding this newborn child and see the reason for the reason for the season.
* **Luke 2:21-33**
* The Jews were waiting for a person that would be called the Messiah.
* He was predicted by many of the Old Testament prophets.
* Possibly one of the most famous relates to the birth of this Child. **Isaiah 9:6**

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

* One of the reasons for the Messiah, according to Simeon, ‘my eyes have seen your salvation’.
* Simeon saw in this newborn child the salvation of the Jews and the Gentiles.
* The Jews and Gentiles = the whole world.
* The whole world needed a Savior – from sin. **John 3:16**

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

* Jesus is the reason for the season.
* One of the reasons for Jesus is that we needed a Savior.
* Because there is nothing we can do to save ourselves.
* That brings us to our second testimony.
* **Luke 2:36-38**
* Jesus came to this world to save sinners.
* Not only did Jesus come to save sinners but to redeem them as well.
* The word ‘redeem’ means ‘to buy out of’.
* Because we were sinners we were sold into the kingdom of darkness.
* Another of the reasons that Jesus came was to buy us out of the kingdom of darkness. **Colossians 1:13-14**

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

* Two reasons for the reason for the season = to save sinners and to bring them into the Kingdom of God.
* Turn to **Matthew 2** for the third reason for the reason of the season
* The first two testimonies came from a Jewish man and woman
* The third one comes from Gentiles from a distant land.
* **Matthew 2:1-11**
* The third reason Jesus came to this earth is so that He could be King of the Kingdom of God.
* So that He could be King to all those He redeemed.
* To everyone that He saved from their sins.
* For Christians, Christmas is about the birth of Jesus.
* He was born to the lowest family in the smallest town in the humblest setting so that no one would be below Him.
* And the reason for His birth is so that He could be Savior, Redeemer, and King.
* Much of the rest of the world doesn’t understand that.
* They want to celebrate this season without a thought about Jesus.
* I am reminded about a conversation that Jesus had with Peter.
* It is recorded in the last verses of John’s gospel.
* Peter wants to know what is going to happen to John in the future.
* Jesus’ response is one we all ought to take to heart. **John 21:22**

What *is that* to you? You follow Me.

* Don’t concern yourself with what others are doing, you follow Jesus.
* If non-Christians want to celebrate on December 25th in a way that resembles a celebration of Christ’s birth but leaves Him out what is that to you?
* This may come as a shock to some people but God doesn’t need us to defend Him.
* He is perfectly capable of dealing with people who are doing things that displease Him.
* If God has placed you in a position of influence – use your influence to be an expression of God’s love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness.
* Leave them to God - You glorify God in your celebration.
* Jesus is the reason for the season.
* But the reason for Jesus is the world needed a Savior, needed to be redeemed into the Kingdom of God, and needs a King.
* That is the reason for the reason for the season.
* And as a way of remembering that, I would like to lead you in Communion.
* It was at the cross that Jesus fulfilled his reason for coming as a child on Christmas day.
* As we get ready to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us do so by remembering the reason why He came.
* The ushers will be coming in a moment to pass out the elements.
* Please hold on to the elements so that we can partake together.
* If you are not a believer here today, this is a holy thing for Christians.
* It has no value or purpose to anyone but Christians.
* And God considers it to be disrespectful to Him and His church to take these elements if you do not believe in Him.
* So, before we pass out the elements, want to give everyone an opportunity to receive Christ.
* **Sinner’s Prayer**
* If you prayed that prayer, then this is for you too.
* The Apostle Paul shared about Communion or the Lord’s Supper. **1 Corinthians 11:23-24**

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

* Jesus came to save us from the eternal consequences of sin.
* Partake of the bread. **1 Corinthians 11:25**

In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it,* in remembrance of Me.”

* Jesus came to redeem us from the kingdom of darkness.
* His blood shed for us, can forgive us all our sins.
* Partake of the cup. **1 Corinthians 11:26**

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

* Even though tomorrow is the celebration of the birth of Christ, let us remember that the reason Jesus was born was so that He could die for our sins.
* Let us remember that because we believe that and have accepted that, we have something to celebrate.
* And don’t forget to pray for those who celebrating Christmas but without Christ - they have nothing to celebrate.
* Eternal life is the precious gift of God given to everyone who receives the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.
* Let’s pray
* **Stand for last song!**
* **Come up for Prayer**!
* **Have a Jesus Christmas**!