

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

The birth of Jesus Christ is so significant that you and I are here to worship Him, and those at home watching on-line are doing so to worship Jesus. As a matter of fact, the birth of Jesus is so significant that some only attend church on Christmas Eve and I, for one, am grateful to God for your attendance this evening.

1. Growing up in the church is a privilege. From our earliest memories we hear, learn, and enjoy the Presence of Jesus who came into the world to save us, yes to save us from our sins. For me personally the Christmas program was one of my favorite times. The church would be full and us little children got to participate in the service. We would be nervous, try to find our parents and grandparents, wave at them, and do our best to behave in front of a large crowd. The best part was afterwards, the children's Sunday school was invited into the kitchen of the church where there would be dozens of bags packed with candy. We would run down the stairs and try to be the first one to get a bag. What I do remember in the bag were peanuts, still in the shell, a candy cane or two, and a whole lot more that I do not remember. Running down the stairs to beat everyone was one of the best parts of the entire evening. I was so fortunate that my parents loved Jesus enough to bring us to church and Sunday School. I will forever be grateful for that about my folks. **2. You hear things in the church about Jesus, about life, that you will never hear anywhere else. "Faith comes from the hearing and the hearing of the Word of God."** There is no more important knowledge in the universe than knowledge of God. What you know about God and knowing God determines where you will spend eternity. We now have the first grandchild in our lives and the family heritage of worshipping together as a family continues. Jesus was, is, and always will be worthy of one's worship. Including your children with you, the worship of Jesus is by far the most important act a family can do together.

For Jesus came to save you and your family from sin so we can all be together for eternity. Jesus does not want any of you to miss out. It is for you He came.

You and I have been given the gift of life from God. All life comes from God. In the beginning God set it up for us to have one day a week of rest and worship. God created us and He knows our limitations. God knows we need rest. Our bodies yearn for that Sabbath rest. It is ingrained in us since the beginning of time. It is in our DNA. Our human bodies were not built to go full bore seven days a week. It is like burning the candle at both ends and it burns out completely before too long. We were put on this earth to know Jesus, to be in relationship with Jesus. Worshipping Jesus with God's people, with family and friends, is one of the absolute greatest activities God has given to us. Your soul, my soul yearns to worship Jesus and it does so because it is only Jesus who can bring great satisfaction to your soul, to your life.

Jesus began his ministry at the age of 30 or thereabouts. The Bible tells us that Jesus was tempted by Satan in all ways, yet he never sinned. **Matthew 4:8-10 (NLT2)** ⁸ Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him the kingdoms of the world and all their glory. ⁹ "I will give it all to you [you can have it all]," Satan said, "if you will kneel down and worship me." ¹⁰ "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.'" Yes, Jesus is the only one who is worthy of worship and God has set aside one day a week for us to do just that and the younger one begins all the better. Jesus is so strong on this. He says, Bring the little children to me and don't hold them back, don't keep them away." God gives to us our children so we can bring them up in the teachings of Jesus Christ. With a firm identity as sons and daughters of God it gives to them a soundness, an inner confidence, a firm foundation of which to carry out their lives. Today the devil is doing his best to destroy those foundations, confusing what God has established since the beginning of time. Oh how we all need Jesus, now, more than ever. And that is why Jesus came, to save you for all eternity. For God so loved the world that He gave His only son

that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, will not die but have everlasting life. The Holy Spirit births faith inside of you as you hear the Good News of Jesus. God's grace gifts you with salvation. Please never put off believing and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus came to save you.

In conclusion, I have something to ask of you. Please take this seriously. If you have never prayed this prayer in your lifetime what we call the sinner's prayer, please pray it tonight. It is the best gift that you can give to Jesus, yourself. The sinner's prayer goes like this. **"Jesus, please forgive me all of my sins and come into my life. In the name of Jesus. Amen."** If you have never prayed that prayer, please do so this evening while you still have the time and opportunity to do so. The Bible says, "Today is the day of salvation." And that is something none of us want to miss out on for Jesus came to save you. Please let Him do it now.