



# ***NEW LIFE***

## ***BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

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*"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)*

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**LORD'S DAY 24 DECEMBER 2006**

My dear readers,

### **1. Timely Letter from Dr Whitcomb**

Last week our dear friend Dr John Whitcomb wrote us a "Christmas Letter" just in time to share with our readers for blessing and good teaching. While the world makes merry for their own pleasure, we rejoice because of God's amazing gift sent from heaven to open a way for us (and others who believe) to a home in heaven.

Please read Dr Whitcomb's letter and pass it on to someone you love who may be seeking for meaning in life. God bless all readers.

### **2. Letter from America: Blessed Christmas 2006!**

The second Person of the Triune God added a human nature to His divine nature a little more than 2,000 years ago! This stupendous and miraculous event was revealed to God's people from the beginning of the world. God announced to Satan (Gen. 3: 15) not long after the creation of Adam and Eve (which occurred "at the beginning" - Matt. 19:4): "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed [the unbelieving community of mankind] and her Seed [all true believers represented by their Saviour]; He shall bruise your head (a fatal, judicial blow delivered to Satan at the Cross - John 12:31), and you shall bruise His heel [the crucifixion of Christ]."

Especially noteworthy is the emphasis on "the woman" (rather than "the man" or even "the man and the woman"). If Adam was the responsible head of that family unit ("through one man sin entered the world" - Rom. 5:12; and "by man came death" - 1 Cor. 15:21), what function was Eve to have, in the light of this prophetic announcement? Adam perceived that his wife, though instrumental in the Fall (1 Tim. 2:14), would, by the amazing grace of God, be instrumental in bringing their Saviour into the world. Therefore he named her "EVE" (= Life or Living), "because she was the mother of all living" (3:20).

Our first parents could not, of course, have understood when or how this wonderful SEED would accomplish their delivery from the power of Satan. Eve may have thought that her first son would be that Person ("I have acquired a man from the LORD" - Gen. 4: 1). And the name Adam gave to her ("Life") shows that he also believed God's promise. This is confirmed by the fact that "the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them" (3:21). By shedding the blood of innocent beings in order to provide, symbolically, coverings to protect them (in their sinful state) from God's holy wrath, He demonstrated to them that their sin was "atoned for" (temporarily covered, or passed over, but to be completely expiated or taken away by the blood of the SEED, "to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed" - Rom. 3:25). Adam and Eve, therefore, are now in heaven.

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### 3. Christmas - God's Perfect Timing

Eve's part, then, in our redemption, was to be "the mother of all living." She would become the mother (or ancestress of the mother), sooner or later, of the SEED, through Whom alone sinful people can be saved. Thus, absolutely true to the ancient Promise, even though thousands of years would intervene, "when the fulness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman . . . that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Gal. 4:45).

God is never in a rush to do His perfect work. He is always perfectly on time. But when the perfect time for the SEED to appear finally came, behold, a virgin woman was told by God that she would become the mother of "the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). Realizing that the angel Gabriel was speaking of a virgin conception, she was deeply perplexed and asked: "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" (Luke 1:34).

God's answer to her legitimate question - and ours! - is astounding: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God" (1:35). By means of this totally miraculous overshadowing, the SON - the SEED - would be protected, not only from the sinful nature of a human father, but also the sinful nature of a human mother. He would have a perfect and complete human nature through Mary (which she inherited from Adam and Eve) but without the sin nature she also inherited from Adam and Eve. In this way He could be not only our genuine human Representative on the Cross, but also our sin less Substitute.

Only One who was fully human and fully divine - the GOD-MAN - could pay the price we could never pay. Only the SON OF GOD who became, by virgin conception, the SON OF MAN, could crush the Serpent's head and rescue us from the awful penalty our sin deserves. This is the true message of Christmas, which was announced in cryptic (but adequate) words to our first parents at the beginning of the world. -John C. Whitcomb

*Dr Tow Siang Hwa  
Calvary Pandan B-P Church, Singapore*

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## The Great Condescension of Jesus Christ

### Introduction

The joy of Christmas is here again and we commemorate the birth of Christ in a meaningful way. The whole season is about JESUS the Lord (and not Santa or shopping or amusement and worldly entertainment)! The very Son of God, was born of a virgin in a stable in Bethlehem as predicted by the prophets of old (Micah 5:2, Luke 2:10-11). For 2,000 years, Christ has never been forgotten. Before he was three, he was almost murdered but the plot by King Herod failed. In the fields, there was a bunch of shepherds who had received an incredible vision about where he had come from; he had moved to Egypt; and foreign dignitaries had worshipped him giving him expensive gifts.

Our Lord Jesus, the second blessed person of the blessed Trinity left His glory in heaven to dwell among men. Angelic hosts and all creatures of the universe adored Him and gave Him honour and glory. As Creator, He was in charge of God's kingdom from heaven.

Why would He ever want to leave the glories of heaven, and take on the physical form and limitations of a human being? Why would He, the Son of God, choose to live as a man on a sin-cursed planet called earth? Paul tells us: that Jesus Christ, who being in very nature of God, made Himself of no reputation, taking the very nature of a servant (or slave), being made in human likeness, as a man, and humbled Himself and became obedient to death on the cross (Philippians 2:5-8).

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But, why did He come? If the Bible is true, and Jesus really is the Son of God, why did He leave the splendour, beauty, glory and holiness, and wonder of heaven to come to this sin-filled and troublesome earth?

Why did Jesus condescend to dwell on earth? It is a most crucial question, here are the wrong answers first taught by many.

- If He came to teach morals, then we will think His life was about ethics.
- If He came to fix the environment, then His life was about trees and plants (i.e. the green movement and saving the earth).
- If He came to model manners and nice living, then we will live a good life with good works.

A wrong understanding of why Jesus came will take us in the wrong direction in life! It is crucial we know why God came to earth. So, let us listen to His own words explaining why He came.

Firstly, let us consider the encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus, Luke 19:10 *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”* Zacchaeus, probably have not heard, seen or spoken to Jesus before this day, yet, his entire life was turned right side up! From a lying, deceptive charlatan and comptroller of income tax, Zacchaeus was transformed into a new creature, full of love and mercy and kindness that proved itself by his giving away the wealth to those he has cheated before. Zacchaeus was saved in his heart! He had been delivered from darkness to light, death to life! He had become a true regenerate Christian, and Jesus sums up this event with these powerful words: *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

The one great purpose of Jesus coming to earth and it is echoed throughout the New Testament with the same meaning and thought. Why did Jesus come? Jesus came to save sinners like you and me!

Jesus' meeting with Zacchaeus was not the only time He told men why He came to earth and two other occasions deserve a closer look. Once, when addressing some sins in the lives of His own followers, Jesus told his disciples that they should model their life's purpose after His, Matthew 10:25, 28. The Son of Man came to give His life as a ransom for many and call men to repent of their sins and believe on Him for eternal life, Jesus came to earth to save sinners from condemnation, John 12:44-50. Those who wrote of Christ after His death and resurrection understood this mission.

Paul also said in Galatians 4:3-7, that “when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive adoption of sons”. So we are no longer slaves but sons, and heirs of God through Christ. John in 1 John 5:20 says, Jesus Christ is the true God and eternal life. Or, Paul again as he writes to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:15 that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Secondly, consider the inspired words of the apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 2:5-6,

*“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all”.* So here is the one great purpose of Jesus Christ, the reason for the season, to seek and to save the Lost! Consider the People whom he saved and transformed:

- Zacchaeus – former deceptive traitors and evil-doers
- Paul – former Christian haters called Saul of Tarsus
- Woman at the well – true seekers of God who have not yet found Him.

Nicodemus, the religious rabbi, who is not saved; and us, in whatever category you fit (godless, god-seeker or otherwise), with whatever sins, in whatever shape, with whatever baggage, with whatever past and whatever future. This is a most incredible purpose of all times. For He is not seeking and saving the self righteous and the godless who will not acknowledge Him, but what He is really seeking, are guilty SINNERS. Like us who will repent and be redeemed.

*“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”* The word “Lost” is a term...

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that means the same thing as “sinners who has no spiritual direction”. Sinners are identified by 4 different words that all teach the same idea of one who missed the mark. Consider Romans 5:6-11.

Christ came to die for the ungodly. And God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We have now been justified by His blood, and we are saved by Him from the wrath of God, we are reconciled, and we shall be saved by His life.

When we are not a Christian, before we are saved, when we are a part of “the Lost,” the Bible says we are weak, ungodly, a sinner and an enemy of God. Millions have been offended by the news that they are God’s enemy and have missed His real offer to save them because of this offence! Do not let your reaction to the truth drive you away from the cure! This Jesus, who came to save sinners, will not save such a one until they can see their sin for what it is and see their lostness for what it is! If you are so busy yelling at the doctor for telling you the truth, you will never hear about the cure!

But thank God there is a cure! Jesus was both the Priest and the Sacrifice! As a priest, he was making intercession between us and God, offering a sacrifice, namely, Himself! He was offering His own life in the place of ours on that cross. He truly came to seek and to save the lost. Not only is He calling men to God, but He is providing the only way for them to get to heaven!

Jesus was sent to preach the kingdom of God (Luke 4:43). His ministry was not just to a small segment of society where He lived, but to the whole "world" (John 3:16). He lovingly calls to all people, "Come to Me, and "Whoever comes to Him he will not refuse".

Thirdly, Jesus come that we may have abundant and meaningful life (John 10:10). Life with Jesus in our hearts takes on a new spiritual dimension. His peace, joy, and power, bring satisfaction like nothing else can, *"in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore"* (Psalm 16:11). All of this and more is not just for the present; His intention is, that we may have "eternal life" and confess and repent of our sins and then to live with Him forever (John 3:16).

Jesus come not to judge the world, but to save the world from sin (John 12:47). God is not a mean despot, but is gracious, loving, and patient, earnestly seeking to rescue the world from its horrible dilemma that we cannot resolve. He is "not willing that any should perish", But that all to come to repentance.

But, just as

- Zacchaeus got down out of the tree and invited Jesus to his home; and,
- Paul got up from the ground and went to hear from Jesus in Damascus; and,
- John left the fishing nets with his father and followed Jesus.

So, let us hear his call today and obey it! And calling is exactly what He is doing now. As His word is preached, and the Bible is read, he is calling you to come to Him, to leave behind the world and its treasures and to make him your ultimate delight and be your Saviour and Lord!

Finally we must be committed to do the following:

- We must REPENT of our sins, acknowledge that you are His enemy, that you are weak, that you are a sinner, and as a result you are ungodly and unfit for His heaven.
- We must BELIEVE in Christ as God, put your faith in and on the person of Jesus as your Saviour, trusting in Him and His perfect work of atonement for sinners like you.

No one who comes to God will come by any other means. All who have come to God have come in this way. There is only one way to God, one way to heaven, and that is through repentance from sins and saving faith in Jesus.

And we must do it soon, right now, for God has appointed a day when His Son will come back to the earth, only that He will not return in the same fashion as His first coming. This time He will...

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bring with Him

- all His glory
- all His angels who will announce His coming
- all His power to save
- in all His splendour and majesty

When He comes this second time, it will not be to call men to believe in Him for salvation. Which He is doing that work right now! When He comes this second time, it will be for the purpose of judgment and to rule the world and receive His own people.

Jesus said to His disciples as it is recorded in Mark 13:34-37, we are to be on guard, keep awake. For we do not know when the time will come, "*Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping*". Therefore, we are to be vigilant and stay awake in our service and stewardship for Him in the saving of souls and the edifying of the saints.

Or, as Matthew recounts in Matthew 25:31-32, speaks of impending judgment with the second coming of the Lord. This future judgment is part of what compelled the missionary Paul to preach in Acts 17, that God commands all people everywhere to repent, and "he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead".

There is only one way to be sure of your own salvation on that day, you must get right with God today. At Christmas, we remember the first coming of Christ as a baby in a manger, and the second coming is the return of a king and judge.

For this reason in Luke 2:8-15, we are to "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people", who will believe in Him and repent of their sins.

He has made known to us this same good news on Christmas day. "Christ the Saviour was born!" We are to turn to Him now and can be born again today. He was as much the Saviour of the world in that manger as He was our sin bearer and substitute on that cross. The entire purpose of His coming was to save sinners like us from their sins and to pay the penalty of those sins and to reconcile us back to God. Some may think that there are many ways to God. The Bible says there is only one way to God. And that one way is a Person, Jesus Christ (John 14:6) who is the only truth, way and life. We desperately need Jesus as Saviour and Lord and we need Him right now. Turn to Him and repent of our sins and humble yourselves to believe in Him and be saved! Let us do it before it is too late.

For all of us who are saved, consider the question how much will Christmas cost you? It cost Mary and Joseph the comforts of home during a long period of exile in Egypt to protect the infant Jesus. It cost mothers, in and around Bethlehem, the slaughter of their baby boys ordered by King Herod. It cost the shepherds time from their routine life, with the call to the manger and to tell the good news. It cost the wise men a long trek, expensive gifts and changed lives. It cost the early Apostles and Christians persecution and oftentimes, death. It cost missionaries of Christ untold suffering and hardship to spread the Good News to others. It cost Christian martyrs, in all eras, their lives for Christ's sake. It cost God the Father His own Son, He sent Him to the earth to save men from their sins. And it cost Jesus a life of sacrifice and service, and a most savage death. How much will Christmas finally cost you today? Some time to think and pray about.

## **Conclusion**

May the true meaning of Christmas not be buried under an avalanche of trivial frivolities and carnival-like celebration this year, but let us remember Christ meaningfully. Let us be glad for Christ came to save us and let us praise him and give thanks to the Lord for His great love to us, and humbly rededicate ourselves to Jesus Christ again this Christmas before the end of the year. Will you do it tonight?

*Rev Jack Sin  
Maranatha B-P Church, Singapore*

**WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON**  
**CHURCH THEME: STRIVING TO LIVE ABOVE OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS**  
**IN CHRIST (Ephesians 1:3)**

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Today: 24/12/2006</b>	<b>Next Week: 31/12/2006</b>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Seetoh Yoong Chiang	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	The Night of Angelic Praise	Tbd	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Text:</i>	Luke 2:8-15	Tbd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Watch Night Service (31 Dec):</b> On 31 Dec, we will have a Watch Night Service in place of the evening worship service. This will commence at 6:00 pm, instead of the regular 4:00 pm. Do invite friends to come and usher in the New Year.</li> <li>• <b>Basic Bible Knowledge (BBK):</b> The BBK classes will commence in Jan 07. For those who are seeking baptism and interested in church memberships, please see Pr Mok.</li> <li>• <b>Dedication Sunday:</b> For all who are serving the church in various ministry, please take note a dedication service will be held on Jan 14. Also, for those who would like to serve in any ministry, please see Pr Mok or Jonathan.</li> <li>• <b>Daily Rememberancer:</b> We still have copies of the Daily Rememberance available for purchase at the book table. This is a good source for your daily devotion. Each copy will cost £5.</li> <li>• <b>Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year:</b> New Life BP Church would like to wish all worshippers a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.</li> </ul>
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Yanning	
<b>Evening</b>			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Jeff Pun	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	Christmas Carol Service	Tbd	
<i>Text:</i>		Tbd	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Anthony	Yanning	
Other Duties			
	<b>Today</b>	<b>Next Week</b>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Wah Soon/Rebecca	Jeff/Chin Kiong	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	No Sunday School	Carol	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	YAF Group 1/Volunteers	YAF Group 2/Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	No Bible Study	Video Presentation	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 29 Dec	7.00 pm	<b>Young Adults Fellowship:</b> No YAF Fellowship	
Sat 30 Dec	4.00 pm	<b>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study:</b> Spkr/C'man: Pr Mok	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
<b>Offering:</b>	£459.27	<b>Hospitality:</b> £820.00 <b>Lunch:</b> £26.45	
<h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>The Lord's Prayer</u></h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen</i></p>			