

**Christmas:**  
**Three Levels of Celebrating Christmas (Outline)**

Dr. V. A. Thomas, Pastor

“The Angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”  
Lk. 2:11

Introduction

Christmas has become a holiday that is celebrated across the world even by those who have no idea what they are celebrating about. If we look at the Christmas celebration from an outside view, we can see three levels of celebration. We can see that in the world today, and in the Scripture.

Let’s read Luke chapter 2, verses 4 thru 12. Three levels of celebrating Christmas as we see today across the world:

First Level of Celebration:

Christmas has become one of the most celebrated holidays in the world. During Christmas time the cities are crowded the most, department stores are busier than ever, airports are extremely busy, airline tickets are more expensive than any other season of the year, roads and highways are jammed, families get together, gifts are exchanged and get together for dinner; people forget their responsibilities and problems and try to enjoy life for a few hours – all because, Santa Clause is in town! Is that right? Generally, there is a saying – ‘this is Christmas all about!’ Is that right? Is it Christmas all about, or is there anything more than that? I call this level of Christmas ‘the world’s version of Christmas.’

Second Level of Celebration:

Then there is another level of Christmas celebration, which is really religious! In the passage we read this morning from Luke chapter 2 verses 4 thru 12 we find the historical event – the background as well as the event of Christ’s birth. Joseph and Mary who was pregnant with Jesus arrives in Bethlehem for census registration. While they were there, it was time for Mary to deliver. Bible says, they didn’t have any place to check in, so she had to deliver the baby in a manger – (verses 6-7). In verses 8 to 12 we find the appearance of an angel to the shepherds in the nearby fields; and his announcement about the birth of Jesus. Ever since the formation of Christianity as a religion, this whole event is portrayed in churches, some public places and even in many Christian homes across the world again and again every year during this time. We call it, religious celebration of Christmas! Is there anything wrong with it? No nothing wrong with it! Is it Christmas all about?

Third Level of Celebration:

Let’s look at verse 12: “This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” In fact, the whole historic event of Christ’s birth and the background with all the trappings as the religious Christians celebrate is only a sign! You know what a sign means – it points to something we are searching for!

What does the sign in verse 12, the baby born in the manger, wrapped up in old rags points us to? We read that in verse: ‘a Savior has been born to you.’ If you ask the question, ‘is this Christmas all about, I would say, “Yes, this is Christmas all about – the birth of a savior!” Even more exciting is, ‘a savior has been born to you – to anyone who would accept him as his or her savior.’ We can celebrate the event, re-create the event with all kinds of artistry, it still remains to be a sign, until we make it personal! There are two important messages we need to hold in our hearts as we celebrate Christmas: 1) Christmas is not about family coming together; not about exchanging gifts; not about the spirit and happiness of the holiday. It is all about one major truth: ‘a Savior has been born to all people who have been dead in their sins and transgressions. 2) This event of Christmas is not a public holiday or a mass religious celebration; it is a personal encounter with God for every person for his or her own salvation!

### Conclusion

This evening, on the eve of Christmas, I want to ask you, where do you stand in your celebration of Christmas? First level, as the world celebrates it – Santa Clause, gifts, dinner, family get together e.t.c.? Or the second level, where you observe the religious elements of this sacred holiday – observing the historical event of Christmas with all the background of Christmas? Or, the third level, where you’ve received the substance, the message, the truth of Christmas – Christmas being the reflection of your personal acceptance of what God has gifted to the world, His beloved Son?

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