

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

Christmas Special

As we celebrate Christmas this year, let us take some time together to appreciate the both the true meaning of the day and what the true gift really is. Is this day special because you get some time off from school? Nope. Is the best Christmas gift you will receive this year the new toy that you have been wanting and receive? Not by a long shot. Now, is it okay to enjoy this time at home with your family and the giving and receiving of gifts? Absolutely! The problem is when we get so caught up in the gift giving and the holiday hoopla that we forget the true meaning of Christmas- that it is meant to be time set aside to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the greatest Gift ever given!

2 Corinthians 9:15 *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"*

Jesus Christ, God the Son, became a human being in order to become the sacrificial lamb, the one who would be judged for our sins.

John 1:29 *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"*

Back in Jesus' time, the Jewish priests would sacrifice a lamb to make payment for the sins of the people. This had to be done every year since they kept on sinning. God is perfect and in order to have a relationship with Him, the sin issue has to be dealt with. He cannot just ignore sin. The price must be paid and forgiveness granted for sin before fellowshiping with Him is possible. This yearly sacrifice of the lamb was a visual aid of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross. See, the lamb had to be perfect.

Leviticus 4:32 *"If someone brings a lamb as their sin offering, they are to bring a female without defect."*

In the same way, the sacrifice that would satisfy God for all time had to be perfect. Jesus Christ is God but He became a human being so He could be that for us. He never sinned, so He remained perfect.

1 Peter 1:18-21 *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God."*

You read that correctly, Jesus is both God and man. How is that even possible?

Matthew 19:26 "...with God all things are possible."



For now, we just need to have faith and believe that what the Bible tells us about Jesus Christ is true. Maybe in Heaven this will make more sense to us- we shall see! The important thing to know is that God was willing to become a man and receive the punishment that we deserve in order to save us from sin. He was born a baby, helpless and in need of care, just like us. He grew up and learned, just like us. He was tempted to sin, just like us- but unlike us, He never gave in to the temptation. Why? Because He had a mission and He knew that He was on Earth for us. Our salvation from sin and its penalty,

eternal separation from God, depended upon Jesus Christ remaining sinless and then allowing Himself to be mistreated by people and judged by God, the Father. He did all of this willingly- He did not have to, you know. Jesus could have changed His mind and decided that the pain was too much, but He did not and for this we should be grateful, every single day.

Do you see now how unimportant time off from school or a new toy is when compared to what the true meaning of Christmas actually is? We are meant to celebrate the love and grace of God towards us, not trees and lights and reindeer. So, this year and every year after, make sure that you are keeping Jesus Christ's birth as the true reason for your celebration. Make sure that you always treasure Jesus Christ as the true Gift. Make sure that your gratitude is first and foremost for God and all that He has done for us.

Let us end this lesson with the story of the Lord's birth from the Bible.

Luke 2:5-14 "He (Joseph) went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'"

Merry CRISTmas!!!!