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John 1:1-5, 10-13 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT a miraculous, supernatural time in history when...

1. Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled...

- In spite of impossible odds, God brought His Son into our world just as He had prophesied throughout history. (Genesis 3:15; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14)
- Over 300 miracles were fulfilled during Christ's short life!

2. Through ordinary people...

- God uses ordinary people of faith to be extra-ordinary vessels for His glory!
- Zechariah in Luke 1:18-20 and Mary in Luke 1:38

3. In a challenging socio-political setting.

- God can use the world's stage filled with political and social challenges (like ours), to perform extra-ordinary events. (Luke 2:1-7)

CHRIST CAME...

1. To CONQUER the devil and the power of darkness.

- 1 John 3:8 *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.* (Genesis 3:15)

- Colossians 2:13-15 *...having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*

2. To SAVE the lost.

- John 3:16-17 *For God so loved and dearly prized the world, that He gave His One and only Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him as Savior shall not perish, but have eternal life...* (Matthew 18:11-14; Luke 19:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

3. To bring HEALING and DELIVERANCE, and to set the captives free.

- Isaiah 61:1-3 *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,...* (Luke 4:18)

4. He came that we might have ETERNAL LIFE in Heaven.

- 1 Peter 1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
- John 5:24, 11:25, 14:2; 1 Corinthians 2:9

MERRY

Christmas

...and Happy New Year

From Pastors Jack and Jane and the Church Council and Leaders