



II Cor. 3:17 – “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is...

LIBERTY

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MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

Mary had a little Lamb;
He came on Christmas night.
She laid Him in a manger bed,
This King of life and light.

He ate with poor and sinful folk;
He claimed He was God's son.
It made the leaders plot His death,
This holy, sinless One.

He came to give us joy and peace,
To take away our sin.
He heals the sick and calms the storm
And ushers justice in.

What makes the Lamb love Mary so
And all the world beside?
By grace alone He chose His own;
For them He lived and died.

And we must love the Lamb you know;
His blood will wash us clean.
Our words must show that we are His;
Our lives by all are seen.

One day this Lamb will come again,
More Lion than a Lamb;
Defeat His foes, reward His own.
O, praise the day He came!



MERRY CHRISTMAS

From Pastor Dice,
Family and Staff

In Days Gone By

On Dec. 25, 1766, a famous
circuit-riding preacher,
Christmas Evans, was born.
On Dec. 25, 1642, Sir
Isaac Newton was born.



"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good
will toward men." - Luke 2:14

THE ENGAGEMENT

We are told of the engagement of Joseph and Mary in the Bible. Ancient custom among the Jews regarding engagement was quite different from ours today. It was more than a promise to marry. It was more than just an engagement ring. It was in fact, the initial step in marriage and as such, could be dissolved only by death or divorce. Faithlessness to an engagement (espousal-betrothal) was punished as adultery.

The length of an engagement varied, though generally, according to Talmudic law, the period was a month for widows and up to a full year for virgins. A girl was "engaged" at her father's house and until the final marriage, no private courting was permitted between the engaged couple.

It can be seen from this how serious the situation was for Mary when she was found to be with child. Before the angel appeared to Joseph and explained the miracle of Mary's conception, he could draw

only one conclusion... she had been unfaithful! What a shock! She was such a pure, sweet, kind, considerate, lovable, and holy virgin. As a righteous Israelite, though he loved her, he could not marry her without defilement to himself. Divorce was the only procedure, but because he loved Mary, he would do it all privately. He wanted to keep it a secret. He wanted to cover it up. Then came the marvelous angelic intervention and Joseph learned that Mary had not been untrue, but that this was the fulfillment of the promised Messiah who would save His people from their sins! She was with child of the Holy Ghost! What testimony to historic accuracy is the simplicity of the Gospel narrative.

What a shame and how dishonorable for any of us to doubt this. No true child of God, member of the family of God, or born again believer, can deny the virgin birth!

Gentle Mary Rejoiced

A maiden would carry a Son –
God's angel had promised it so.
Bless'd be the one who answered her Lord,
"Send me where I must go..."
And gentle Mary rejoiced.

She traveled on a donkey's back;
Each bump caused pain of great depth.
Bless'd be the one who suffered these things
To bring forth new life as she wept...
And gentle Mary rejoiced.

A humble stable, no room in the inn,
Only cattle to witness the birth.
Then tears of travail turned to pure joy
As she held God's Son come to earth...
And gentle Mary rejoiced.

Come celebrate Jesus with Mary;
Live out your life as she taught.
Wherever God leads you must follow,
For His plan is perfectly wrought...
And with gentle Mary rejoice!

Gael Phaneuf



THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

TEXT: 1 Timothy 1:15

I. PREDESTINATED BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN — 1 Peter 1:20

"Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you." Cf. Eph. 1:4, 5

II. PROMISED BY THE FATHER — Genesis 3:15

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

III. PROPHESED BY THE PROPHETS — Isaiah 7:14

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Cf. Isaiah 9:6.

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2

IV. PROVIDENTIALLY EFFECTED — Luke 2:1, 4, 5

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed." And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child."

V. PRESENTED IN THE FULNESS OF TIME — Galatians 4:4, 5

"But 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 the adoption of sons." Cf. Luke 2:7

VI. PROCLAIMED BY THE ANGEL — Luke 2:10, 11

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

VII. PREPARATORY FOR SALVATION — Matthew 1:21

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Cf. John 1:10-14; 3:16; Acts 13:39

Christmas Without Christ

The thoughtless masses who to-day celebrate "Christmas" but leave CHRIST OUT little realize what they proclaim by such neglect.

For what, after all, is Christmas without Christ? Dale Crowley said:

It is the virgin mother without a supernatural Babe.

It is the swaddling clothes without the Infant Redeemer.

It is a manger-cradle without the Divine Occupant.

It is the angel choir without a song.

It is the lonely shepherds without a message from the skies.

It is the fruitless quest of the Wise Men on a hopeless mission.

It is the star of Bethlehem without promise or signification.

It is a perishing world without a Saviour!

It is a Bible without a message of hope!

It is a God of infinite power without love for dying sinners!

It is history and eternity without Jesus!

Story of "Silent Night"

On Christmas Eve in 1818, Franz Gruber, church organist in the little town of Oberndorf, Bavaria, made an alarming discovery. The organ would not play!

For several days previous to Christmas Eve, Oberndorf had been snowbound. Gruber, knowing there was no one in Oberndorf capable of repairing the organ, was afraid there would be no music for Christmas. He could hardly imagine Christmas without music.

Quickly he went to the vicar, Joseph Mohr, and told him his story. He asked Mohr to write a new Christmas song which could be easily sung without the use of the organ.

Later as Mohr sat reading the Christmas story from his Bible... "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour...", the words welled up in his soul like a heavenly anthem. Long into the night he sat meditating on them. As the full meaning gripped his soul, he wrote



a poem about the wonderful story.

Early the next day, Gruber took the newly written words and composed a melody. Now the people were gathering at the church. There was one man who could pick out tunes on a guitar. He was asked to accompany the new carol.

The people of Oberndorf loved the song immediately... and thus Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber gave to the world one of the most beautiful and best loved of the Christmas carols. It was not long before the Tyrolean Singers took the song to America. For years it went under the title, "Song from Heaven." It was more quickly and better known in America than in Europe, but today, "Silent Night" is sung in nearly every language in the world.



CHRISTMAS QUOTES

The only gift God wants you to give for Christmas is yourself. Give your all to Him for daily service.

**TO ALL OF OUR ATHEIST FRIENDS:
THANK GOD YOU'RE WRONG.**

—AnswersInGenesis.org

One of our best Yuletide decorations is a Christian wreathed in smiles.

Christmas carolers sing about peace on earth, but they don't tell us where.

We really live when we live to give.

Unless we see the cross overshadowing the cradle, we will have lost the real meaning of Christ's birth.

At Christmas time consider not so much the gift of a friend, but the friendship of the giver.

This Christmas may your heart be a manger to hold the gift of God's love.