

Christmas Message

Douglas Cho, D.R.S.

[Luke 2:10-14] Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

In a few days, it will be Christmas. I wish each of you a merry and blessed Christmas. Christmas is a day of great significance not only to the Christians but to all peoples of the world. On the evening of baby Jesus' birth, an angel from God appeared to a few shepherds and gave the joyful news of His birth. Why did the angel not go to King Herod, the person of the highest position in the kingdom of Judea, but rather appeared to the shepherds of low esteem, who were tending their flock of sheep while enduring the chilly night weather in the field? Such a manner of the angel's appearance seems so incompatible with the common expectation in light of the significance of the message to be propagated and certainly was not an efficient choice of the news deliverance. However, it was the most appropriate mode of deliverance from God's viewpoint. The safety of the baby Jesus' life had to be ensured. These shepherds of humble stature, upon hearing the angel's message and seeing the chorus singing of the heavenly host, went into the village of Bethlehem, found the baby Jesus laid in a manger, delivered what they had seen and heard to the parents of Jesus and those in the home, and glorified God for their most unusual experience. Had the message been delivered to Herod, he would have sent an army of soldiers to Bethlehem and killed the baby the very night because the baby would be a threat to his royal position.

God is sending the same message to you this Christmas season. Just as the heavenly host sang, "Glory to God in the highest and peace and goodwill from Him to the earth," the very same message is still being sent because the time of God's grace is not over yet. In about 4,000 years since the creation, God's plan of sending His only begotten Son into the world to achieve the grand salvation plan was finally being fulfilled. That is why this day of baby Jesus' birth was a day of great joy and glory to God in heaven. Satan had attempted to disrupt this divine plan many times, yet the plan was being fulfilled without fail. Baby Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem through the humble obedience of Mary and Joseph, who were both descendants of King David. And this baby would grow up to deliver God's message of peace and goodwill of salvation to all humanity and to offer Himself up as the sacrificial ransom for the salvation of all who accept God's goodwill message.

Later on, Jesus declared the significance of His coming into the world in a human form as follows:

[John 3:16] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jesus declared that He had come to this world as a human, although He was God the Son, so that He would willingly become the ransom for all repenting sinners so that they will enter into a peaceful relationship with God of heaven and earth and live forever without experiencing the second death. He has come to give such a marvelous gift to all repenting sinners. This message declared by Jesus during His ministry is the same message that had been sung by the heavenly host on the night of His birth, the message of "peace and goodwill toward men from God."

Today I encourage all believers to think upon the significance of Christmas and honor God in praise and godly life for such precious salvation that came to us through Jesus. Let us submit our whole self to the control and loving care of the Spirit of God each day so that the character and virtues of Lord Jesus might fill our heart, soul, and life. To those who are still uncommitted, I'd like to encourage you to ponder on why the Son of God had to come to this world some 2,000 years ago, and consider where your life is heading. This Christmas comes to you as a decision point, a very serious decision between continuing as you have, ending up receiving God's just judgment

of eternal punishment for rejecting His kind goodwill invitation together with your eternal regret, and the wise choice of accepting His invitation to enter into God's bosom of love and become His children with the attendant blessings and eternal blessed life in His heavenly kingdom. I hope you choose wisely.

Merry Christmas and may God's kindness and blessings be with each of you!