

Because Christ was Born... Colossians 1:13-14

Introduction:

1. We have gathered here together to do two wonderful things:
 - To celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
 - To worship Him, give Him glory, and thanks.
2. I know that the world has done a lot to corrupt and obscure the true meaning of Christmas, but the birth of our Savior is an event that is certainly worth celebrating.
3. In the Bible, you will find it hard to find a lot of things that heaven celebrates. We know that heaven celebrates a lost sinner coming to God, but it also celebrated the day that Christ was born. Luke 2:11-14
 - If something is important enough for heaven to celebrate, I believe as believers, we should celebrate.
4. But why was it such a wonderful day when Christ was born? Here is why: when Christ was finally born, God set into motion His plan of salvation for you and me.
5. Because Christ was born on this earth and would ultimately die on the cross and rise from the dead, some wonderful blessings have been provided for you and me.
6. Because Christ was born...

We can be delivered from Satan's kingdom. vs. 13a

1. The word "*delivered*" means "to rescue from danger." God has made a way of deliverance, but what has He delivered us from?
2. He has delivered us from the power of darkness – Satan's kingdom and authority on earth. His kingdom is one of sin and darkness; it leads people to eternal separation from God and everlasting darkness.
3. But there is good news – John 1:3, 6-7, 9.
4. Praise God for the day Jesus came! When we believe on Him, we are delivered from Satan's kingdom of darkness, and it gets better!

We can be translated into Christ's kingdom. vs. 13b

1. God doesn't deliver us from the kingdom of darkness and leave us to wander around spiritually homeless (vs. 13b). He immediately

changed our citizenship into another kingdom (the kingdom of his dear Son).

- “*Translated*” means “to transfer, to carry away.”
2. This isn’t something that God is one day **going** to do. If you are saved and know Christ, God has already done it for you! If you don’t know Christ, the moment you trust Christ as your Savior, you are made a part of Christ’s kingdom of light. Ephesians 5:8; Ephesians 2:6
 3. We are not **waiting** to become part of Christ’s kingdom, we are **now** a member of Christ’s kingdom, **now** the sons and daughters of God, **now** the possessors of eternal life, **now** the citizens of heaven, etc. And it’s all because of Jesus!

We can be set free from bondage. vs. 14

1. The word “*redeemed*” carries the idea of paying a ransom to release a prisoner.
2. We were prisoners to our sin. The payment we owed was death. But Jesus Christ paid the price to deliver us and set us free. The ransom was paid in full! The Bible says that Christ died **for** us.
3. But He could not have died in our place, unless He had first been born. He had to take on humanity in order to make that once for all payment to set us free. Without it, we would be stuck in bondage with no way out.
4. You may feel in bondage today – bondage to some habit, addiction, depression, you feel bound by circumstances out of your control, etc.
5. Jesus Christ is the great deliverer. He can redeem you and set you free.

We can be totally forgiven by God. vs. 14b

1. What a sweet word – forgiven! The moment a sinner believes that what Christ did was enough, simply trusting Christ to save them, immediately, every sin is completely and totally forgiven. We receive a full pardon.
2. The word “*forgiven*” means “to send away” or “to cancel a debt.” Christ not only redeemed us from the slave market of sin; He canceled every debt so we could never be enslaved again.
3. Forgiveness is an act of God’s grace that is legally just and righteous, and it is based on Christ’s work for sinners. We don’t **deserve**

- forgiveness and we can't **earn** it. Forgiveness is based on the merits of Christ alone.
4. God does not arbitrarily or sentimentally forgive sins. It isn't the idea of God saying, "Well, I feel sorry for them so I think I will forgive them" or "They sure have been trying hard to change so I'll forgive them."
 5. Forgiveness is rooted in and based on the completed work of Christ – the work He accomplished on the cross, the redemption of the whole world. It is the only way that God can legally and morally forgive sins.

In Conclusion:

1. Now do you see why the heavenly host rejoiced when Christ was born? We have seen all that it means to us who have believed.
2. And it is all based on the free gift of God – His very Son, Jesus Christ. You can't purchase any of these wonderful blessings that we have talked about. They aren't for sale.
3. They only come to those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone. It is summed up beautifully in Romans 6;23, "*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"