

UHPC WORSHIP: DEC. 23, 2018

SERMON TOPIC: "JESUS—BORN TO SAVE AND RESTORE"

JESUS SAVES AND THEN HE RESTORES! HE RESTORES US TO A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR CREATOR AND WITH ONE ANOTHER. HE BUILDS OUR FAITH, CORRECTS OUR WALK, ATTITUDES, AND INTENTIONS. HE ORDERS OUR PRIORITIES, GIVES US KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, AND UNDERSTANDING. HE RELEASES THE GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT THAT WE MIGHT SERVE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD DOING GOOD WORKS AS WE WORSHIP, PRAY, SHARE IN THE SACRAMENTS, DO MISSIONS AND OUTREACH, CALLING LOST SOULS TO THE SAVING GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF LIFE IN GOD THE FATHER THROUGH CHRIST THE SON AND BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. IT IS A LIFELONG ENGAGEMENT, GROWTH, BUILDING, RENEWAL, AND REFINING, UNTIL THE PERFECT REDEMPTION COMES, AND WE INHERIT THE FULLNESS OF THE ABUNDANT AND ETERNAL LIFE.

I don't know of any other time of the year that is more beautiful and full of joy, love, peace, and hope than the season of CHRISTMAS! Yet for ages multitudes have been trying to stamp Christ Jesus and His birthday celebration out of existence. Still He is exalted. Christmas still persists, continues, and stands indomitable and triumphant against all the satanic forces of destruction and evil that roam about seeing who and what they can destroy and devour. YOU SEE, DEAD THINGS AND DEAD WORKS CANNOT KILL LIFE NOR PUT OUT HIS LIGHT. FOR HE IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD WHO CAME TO SAVE SOULS FROM ETERNAL DAMNATION AND SEPARATION FROM OUR CREATOR. Through His Light all human life is enlightened and illuminated. ALL LIFE ORIGINATES WITH JEHOVAH GOD IN HEAVEN. WHEN SIN ENTERED THE WORLD THROUGH THE FALL OF ADAM AND EVE, HUMANITY WAS SEPARATED FROM ITS PURE AND HOLY, DIVINE CONNECTION WITH ITS MAKER. HENCE, THE LORD, JEHOVAH GOD, MADE A PLAN TO RESTORE HOPE FOR ETERNAL LIFE IN GOD AND WITH GOD FROM WHOM ALL LIFE AND BLESSINGS FLOW.

Volumes have been written about THE ONE God embodied to come to earth to implement THE PLAN OF SALVATION AND RESTORATION. In the Gospel of John Chapter 20: 30, John writes that if he were to tell all he knew about Christ Jesus and all he has done, there wouldn't be enough room in the oceans to contain it. But let it suffice to say that he has written all that is necessary for all who read to believe that JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE PROMISED MESSIAH OF GOD --THE SON OF GOD; AND THAT THROUGH BELIEVING, ALL MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME. SO, AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE, LET US ANSWER THE QUESTION: "WHAT WAS THE MAIN PURPOSE FOR THE BIRTH OF CHRIST JESUS INTO THIS FALLEN WORLD DARKENED BY SIN?" **THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS: JESUS THE CHRIST—YESHUA HA-MESSIAH, WAS SENT FROM THE FATHER IN HEAVEN TO EARTH TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST, AND TO RESTORE LIFE ETERNAL AND LIFE ABUNDANT TO HUMANITY WHO COME TO BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL.**

Micah the prophet, wrote hundreds of years before the birth of Christ Jesus, that ONE from Bethlehem Ephratha, of the tribe of JUDAH, would be the promised Messiah of the Ancient of Days. He would come to save and to rule Israel. Yet there would be an appointed time for His return to establish rulership over Israel and to feed His flock in the strength of the LORD and to gather the scattered. Then they shall live secure and be great and be of ONE PEACE. HE WAS BORN TO SAVE LOST SOULS AND TO RESTORE LIVES RUINED BY SIN. PART "A" IS DONE. PART "B" IS IN THE MAKING AND PENDING MANIFESTATION.

We hear Asaph speaking in Psalm 80, pleading with the Creator to LISTEN/ GIVE EAR... O Shepherd of Israel enthroned upon Cherubim to come forth with might and COME AND SAVE US! In v. 3, the Psalmist prays: "O God, RESTORE US... AND LET YOUR FACE (FAVOR) SHINE UPON US THAT WE MIGHT BE SAVED. Again in v. 7, he continues: "Restore us, O God of Hosts... that we might be saved. Again in v. 19, he repeats: "RESTORE US, O LORD GOD OF HOSTS; LET YOUR FACE SHINE THAT WE MAY BE SAVED."

Well, you know what? THE LORD HAS ANSWERED THOSE PRAYERS AND THE PRAYERS OF A MULTITUDE of others. THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS HAS NOT ONLY PUT IN PLACE THE SALVATION PLAN BUT HAS EXECUTED THE REDEMPTION WORK ON THE CROSS. THE SAVIOR AND RESTORER OF THE WORLD HAS ALREADY COME AND WILL COME AGAIN TO GATHER HIS FLOCK UNDER HIS WINGS TO TAKE US WITH HIM TO GLORY IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD THE FATHER FOR ETERNITY. **Here is the good part:** THAT LIFE BEGINS NOW FOR ALL WHO ACCEPT SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. HE IS THE ONE WHO LEADS US TO OUR Final and total redemption. HE transforms us **by the purification of His Blood and by the sanctifying Grace of the Holy Spirit.** He transitions His own from this world to the CHURCH TRIUMPHANT to Glory in the presence of Abba/Father, our Creator.

All the material we read in the Bible are mostly about the depraved condition of the human heart and soul. It is corroborating evidence to prove God's love and mercy through the truth and reality of this mystical and divine work of God given to us in Christ Jesus at Christmas. The Bible, the written Word of God, is there to convince those who are seeking and to show them where things began, how we came to be where we are, and where we may be headed unless we repent and give our lives over to Christ to be healed and restored. All that is written and taught for ages are about God's great LOVE for a sinful and broken world. They are written to historically and spiritually connect the dots, show us our broken places and to heal and restore us. The re-connections and the ultimate goal are for God to REDEEM AND TO RESTORE ALL HUMANITY TO GOD-SELF. The Bible is written to show how weak and broken

human-beings are when left to ourselves alone. For without guidance from above and strength to carry us forward on a straight and narrow path into the Kingdom of God in heaven, people will remain in the kingdom of darkness and under satanic dominion and power. Our loving LORD, Jehovah our God, knows our feeble frame and remembers that we are dust. **So, He has provided someone to be a perfect sacrifice, holy, unblemished Lamb of God... to come to earth and to take away our sins.** ALL WE NEED TO DO IS TO CONFESS OUR BROKENNESS AND SIN, REPENT AND BE TRULY SORRY FOR OUR WILFULL SINS AND SINS OF ERROR, BELIEVE THAT CHRIST JESUS IS OUR MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD, WHO CAME TO SUFFER AND TO DIE, TO RISE AGAIN, AND TO SEND US THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HELP US LIVE A GODLY AND UPRIGHT LIFE HERE, TO SERVE, TO MINISTER, AND TO INTERCEDE, TO ADVOCATE, AND TO TEACH US, TO EMPOWER US TO DO THE WILL OF GOD AS LIGHT AND SALT IN THE EARTH.

ACCORDING TO THE GOSPELS, WE KNOW THE SAVIOR AND RESTORER HAS COME. THE WORLD IS STILL SINGING, REJOICING, CELEBRATING, AND PREACHING ABOUT HIM. HE CANNOT BE ERADICATED FROM THE WORLD. HE CANNOT BE KILLED AGAIN. HE NOW LIVES FOREVER. HE HAS FULFILLED THE LAW PERFECTLY AND HAS DELIVERED US FROM ITS CURSE. SO THAT NOW WE HEAR THE VIRGIN MARY SINGING IN HER MAGNIFICAT: " My soul magnifies the LORD and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for He has shown mercy and strength to those who fear Him. The proud He has scattered. He has helped Israel as promised to Abraham. IN OTHER WORDS, JESUS HAS COME TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD, SO THAT NOT ONLY NATIONAL ISRAEL HAS ACCESS TO GOD, BUT ALSO THE GENTILES WHO ONCE SAT IN IGNORANCE OR DARKNESS WITHOUT KNOWING THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD. From now on everyone who receive and accept Christ Jesus as Savior, Redeemer, Lord, and King of kings, shall be saved. Then ratify your faith and intentions by accepting Water Baptism, and Christ will give the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Father has sent LIGHT in our darkness and the Light penetrates the darkness and it did not overcome Him.

BEHOLD IT IS WRITTEN OF HIM IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK! **FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION, IT IS ALL ABOUT GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL GENEROSITY, KINDNESS, AND LOVE FOR A BROKEN AND CONFUSED WORLD...UNABLE TO HELP OURSELVES.** It is out of the bounty and bowels of God's love and compassion that the Father offered His Only Begotten and Beloved Son to be a perfect sacrifice for the redemption of human sin. MAYBE SOME WOULD DIE FOR A FRIEND, BUT NONE WOULD DIE TO SAVE THEIR ENEMY. We were once enemies of God because of our sinful and fallen nature. But now we have a choice to be called: CHILDREN OF GOD, A PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS, AND CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT. THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO SING: "O, AMAZING GRACE... HOW SWEET THE SOUND THAT SAVED

US... WE ONCE WERE BLIND, BUT NOW WE CAN SEE THAT THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD IS JESUS THE CHRIST, THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD.”

If there is anyone here who does not know what we are talking about, then fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate. Someone will call you to talk further with you. You have come into the light, but now you need to follow the path of righteousness led by the Good Shepherd. He is the Way, the Truth, and the life. HE IS THE ONE FROM BETHLEHEM, BORN IN A MANGER TO MARY THE VIRGIN, CONCEIVED IN HER BY THE HOLY SPIRIT... FULLY GOD, YET FULL HUMAN. HE ALONE CAN SAVE LOST SOULS, RESTORE US TO THE CREATOR GOD, AND MAKE US WHOLE AGAIN.

I pray that no one leaves here not understanding that the main purpose for the birth of Christ Jesus, is not just to give us things, wealth, etc. although that is possible. **BUT HIS MAIN PURPOSE FOR ENTERING THIS EARTHLY REALM, WAS AND IS TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST AND TO RESTORE OUR BROKEN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS.**

DO WE GET THIS? CAN YOU REMEMBER HOW TO RECEIVE THIS GIFT OF LOVE? ARE WE WILLING TO EMBRACE HIS WAY, HIS TRUTH, HIS LIFE, AND HIS LIGHT? IT IS MORE THAN JUST A RITUAL. IT BECOMES A NEW LIFE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD AND GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM OF GOD.

LET US GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO ALMIGHTY GOD FOR ALL GOD’S BOUNDLESS LOVE. LET US GIVE THANKS FOR CHRIST’S FINISHED WORK ON THE CROSS FOR US. LET US ADORE HIM IF WE ARE THANKFUL THAT WE HAVE SALVATION AND THAT WE ARE DAILY BEING RESTORED TO WHOLENESS IN EVERY ASPECT OF OUR BEING. TO GOD BE THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE. SO LOVED HE THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE US HIS SON...” LET US REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS FOR THIS PRECIOUS GIFT FROM GOD IN HEAVEN UNTO THIS EARTH BELOW. HE IS THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS. WE ENDEAVOR TO LOVE HIM, TO OBEY HIM, AND TO FOLLOW HIM ALWAYS, BY THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

AMEN.