



## JESUS, THE CENTER OF OUR LIFE

**T**he Christmas season is upon us and many of us are concerned with everything but the reason for the season. We are concerned with buying gifts, decorating our homes, office parties, Christmas cards, and everything else about the season except Jesus Christ the Lord. Even when we are preparing for the Christmas holiday, Jesus Christ is not the center of our focus. It is so easy to lose track of the reason for the season.

As Christians we need to make sure that Jesus is the center of everything that we do. Jesus needs to be the center of our life, soul, work, ambitions, and anything else that you put your mind to. If Jesus is not the center of your life, you need to examine your salvation. When you become born again, Jesus becomes the absolute center of your life. Everything that you used to dwell on becomes second to Jesus Christ.

If your main goal is accumulating wealth and riches, you are not born again! If your main goal in life is your work, you are not born-again. If your main goal is serving and becoming more like the Lord Jesus Christ then you are born again. Only those who have Jesus Christ as the center of their life are born again.

### **John 3:1-21**

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born

again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to

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condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

In this Christmas season we need to concentrate on making sure that Jesus Christ is the center of our life. We need to focus on becoming Christ-like! Jesus Christ is the reason for the season and we need to dwell on just who Jesus Christ is. We need to focus on Jesus Christ as the center of our life.

Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. If Jesus Christ is not the main emphasis of our life we have no hope. Without Jesus Christ our existence is totally without meaning. Sure there are some that do good and help others, but without God as the center of their life, they have no hope of salvation. If your primary focus in life is not total belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, you have only the darkness and the pit of hell to look forward to. There is no hope of walking upon the streets of the new Jerusalem. You can gain the whole world at the expense of your most precious soul.

**Matthew 16:26**

26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Jesus told about a rich man who lost everything in the lake of fire. This is not a parable, but is told as something that actually took place.

**Luke 16:19-31**

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,  
21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

God was not the primary emphasis of the rich man, but the accumulation and keeping of wealth were his primary goals during his life. Consider the final value of the rich man's wealth. What was it worth to him in the end? Did he have anything

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of value while he was looking at Abraham from the fiery flames of hell? Was he able to buy his way into heaven? Who became the beggar in the end? Wasn't Lazarus the one with the true wealth in the end? When you consider all of these questions, consider where your priorities lie. Are you concerned with all of what is going on around you this Christmas season, or have you placed Jesus Christ and his righteousness as the main emphasis of your life?

Without Jesus Christ as the center of your life, you have nothing! You may have everything that this world offers, but in the end you will be a beggar like the rich man. He was begging for a single drop of water in the end. It is time to make your calling and election sure!

## **2 Peter 1:10**

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

We need to give diligence to our salvation as the most valuable asset we have. There is nothing more precious to us than our salvation! Thus if you throw your salvation away, you are throwing the most precious commodity that you can ever hope to acquire into the trash.

As a Christian you need to have your priorities in order with Jesus Christ and his righteousness being the chief and most important. Everything else is second. Jesus Christ needs to be the chief corner stone of our life!

Now, consider where God wants you.

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I received this as an attachment to an email back in 2004.

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Sunday School . . . . . 11:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 12:00 Noon  
Sunday Evening . . . . . 6:30 PM  
Wednesday Evening . . . . . 7:30 PM

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