

Antioch CELEBRATION Message: "Opening the Greatest Gift"

Sermon Series: "How to Have a Perfect Christmas"

Dates: December 10-11, 2016

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God's greatest gift is SALVATION! What is our salvation from?

Jesus brings us Salvation from SIN.

You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins.
Luke 1:77 (NLT)

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.
Romans 8:1 (NLT)

Jesus brings us Salvation from DEATH.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through
Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 6:23 (NLT)**

Jesus brings us Salvation from HOPELESSNESS.

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for
us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the
troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the
things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. **2**
Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT)

Three Responses:

*Receive the Gift!

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become
children of God. **John 1:12 (NLT)**

*Worship the Gift!

The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they
had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them. **Luke 2:20 (NLT)**

*Share the Gift!

After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what
the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were
astonished... **Luke 2:17-18 (NLT)**



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Regarding **Romans 8:1** (above), what role is shame and guilt supposed to play in the life of a believer? Have you learned to forgive yourself?

Read **2 Corinthians 7:8-10**. What replaces shame and guilt in the life of a believer?

How does a believer approach death and the fear of death differently?

Describe an experience where Jesus brought you hope when you were struggling with hopelessness.

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Who are you actively loving when you:

Receive the gift? How?

Worship the gift? How?

Share the gift? How?

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True spiritual leadership is “shepherding”—taking time to care of the spiritual needs of people. What do we learn about leadership from the surprised shepherds who boldly shared Jesus?

Pray!

If you’ve accepted the Greatest Gift, take a moment to express your thankfulness to God and ask for opportunities to share that Gift with others!

If you’ve not accepted the Greatest Gift and would like to, ask your group leader or someone else you trust to help you take your next step!