



Christmas Service - December 25, 2021 Wonderful Savior

The First Text Message:

In 1992, Neil Papworth, a 22-year-old software programmer from the UK, sent the first ever text message from a computer to his colleague Richard Jarvis.

Neil had been working as a developer and test engineer to create a Short Message Service (SMS) for his client, Vodafone. That very first text, sent on the 3rd December 1992, simply said, *“Merry Christmas.”*

Neil said: *“In 1992, I had no idea just how popular texting would become, and that this would give rise to emojis and messaging apps used by millions. I only recently told my children that I sent that first text. Looking back with hindsight, it’s clearer to see that the Christmas message I sent was a pivotal moment in mobile history.”*

Courtesy: Vodafone Group

CHRISTMAS - A *pivotal moment* in the history of mankind.

Galatians 4:4-5

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Today, there are lots of customs & celebrations associated with Christmas. Some interesting family traditions as well.

Some of them are centered around Jesus, while most may not necessarily be.

Our society and popular culture tend to replace or substitute Jesus from Christmas or distance Jesus as far as possible from Christmas.

Or if possible, even take away ‘Christmas’ and replace it with Holidays and other such terms.



THE LORD JESUS – THE ‘CHRIST’ OF CHRISTMAS

1. THE ETERNAL ONE

John 1:1-3,14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

2. THE INCARNATE GOD

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

3. THE SAVIOR

Matthew 1:21

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners

4. THE ALL-POWERFUL ONE

Philippians 2:9-11

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name



which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

5. THE COMING KING

Acts 1:11

who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

THE WONDERFUL SAVIOR

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Wonderful (Heb. *Pele* – a miracle, something marvelous)

Matthew 1:21

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

Save (Gr. *Sozo* – save, heal, protect, preserve, deliver)

Luke 2:10-11

10 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. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Savior (Gr. *Soter* – a deliverer)



1) HIS LOVE IS WONDERFUL

1 John 4:9-10

9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Love (Gr. Agape – affection, benevolence, a love feast)

2) HIS PEACE IS WONDERFUL

JESUS – the Prince of peace

Prince – captain, master, ruler, steward

John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

3) HIS FORGIVENESS IS WONDERFUL

Ephesians 4:32

32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Romans 5:8

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

4) HIS POWER IS WONDERFUL

Ephesians 1:19-20

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power **20** which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Acts 10:38

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.



5) HIS SALVATION IS WONDERFUL

God created everything perfect.

The devil deceived Eve. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Sin entered the world and death through sin.

Romans 5:12

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

-All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

-Our sins withhold the good things God wants us to have (Jeremiah 5:25)

-Separation from God both now and eternally. (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Isaiah 59:1-2

59 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

-The result of sin is death. Eternal separation from God. (Romans 6:23a)

-We are in subjection to satan - who steals, kills, and destroys (John 10:10).

-No peace. Searching for meaning, purpose, direction.

-We cannot reach God with our own good works. Our best actions are not good enough (Isaiah 64:6)

-No one else - no other human person can take us to God - because each one has their own sins that they have committed.

-God loved us so much He decided to make a way.

However, the penalty of sin had to be borne. The power of sin and satan has to be broken. Only someone born of the human race (Adam's race) who was without sin and not in subjection to satan, could fully represent mankind, and pay for sin.

God decided to do this for us (John 3:16)

Jesus Christ was God who became Man - Perfect, Sinless, just like one of us, and yet without sin.

Having paid for all our sins on the cross and having conquered satan, Jesus rose up from the dead, triumphant and victorious.



Today, God offers the free gift of salvation to anyone who will believe (Romans 6:23, John 3:16-17).

John 3:16

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.

John 1:12

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Romans 6:6

6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

CONCLUSION

Have we lost the wonder of Christmas and the Christ of Christmas?

What has caused us to lose that wonder?

Is it willful sin?

Is it a stubborn addiction?

Is it the guilt, pain, regret, disappointment, failure of the past or present?

Is it because of things, people, ministry, etc. that has taken precedence over/replaced the Christ of Christmas?

Can we give the rightful ownership of our lives to Jesus?

And allow our hearts to recapture re-capture the wonder of Christmas?

SALVATION CALL | SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

If you ask, does God love me? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 3:16, Romans 5:8

If you ask, how can I have my sins forgiven? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:2,12

If you ask, what is the way to God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 14:6

If you ask, how can I become a child of God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 1:12

If you ask, where can I find salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 4:12

If you ask, what must I do to experience salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 16:30-31

As an act of your own free choice, we invite you to make this decision to follow Jesus.



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Christmas Day December 25, 2021
Wonderful Savior

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Take turns to read the following Scripture references (each person can read a reference)

John 1:1-3,14

Isaiah 9:6

1 Timothy 3:16

Matthew 1:21

1 Timothy 1:15

Philippians 2:9-11

Acts 1:11

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Share some interesting Christmas traditions of your family with one other.



2, Share how knowing the 'Wonderful Savior' has changed your Christmas

3, Take turns to pray for family, friends, colleagues and neighbors who have not yet experienced the Lord's salvation

Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>



DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

KEYWORDS

Names of God, Character of God, Creator, Healer, Provider, Peace, Shepherd, Savior, Banner, Victory, Elohim, Jehovah, Yahweh, Jireh, Shalom, Roi, El-Shaddai

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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