

## **SERMON: THE CHALLENGES OF CHRISTMAS**

### **Luke 2:11**

**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.**

### **Introduction**

Life on this terrestrial ball, which we call the earth, is a challenge in every respect. It is common knowledge that the birth experience is a challenge to both the new born baby and the mother. Just getting here and breathing is a challenge. I don't know what they do now, but in the old days, the midwife would spank the baby on his or her bottom and the baby would cry. You cannot cry without breathing. So the baby takes his or her first breath in response to pain. The first sign of life is a baby's cry-not laughter. Learning to walk is a challenge. Cutting the first teeth is a painful challenge. The challenges come and go with each new stage of life. Every stage of life has its challenges- and I don't have to enumerate them for you.

Thanks be to God who gives us strength to meet these challenges. All we have to do is trust Him completely and obey Him in love. This is why David could pen these words in Psalm 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old: yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

I agree with the Darwinists, when they say, "Only the strong will survive." They left out one important principle. We, humans, can only be strong enough to survive when we get our strength from our Creator, the Lord of all the earth. I further agree that it is the "survival of the fittest." We are only fit for heaven, if we accept the precious blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

These last two years have been extremely challenging. While there have been many plagues through human history, there has been nothing like Covid19 for those of us who are living today. When we think it is about to be controlled, a new variant pops up. It is the lowest form of life on earth, yet it has stumped the minds of our best medical scholars.

Living a Christian life has always been a challenge, whether there was a plague or not. It was a challenge for Jesus. Remember the temptations that the devil presented to Him. Remember the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was victorious and we also can be victorious, if we lean and depend on Him. Christmas has always been a challenge to keep the real reason for the season the top priority. As we joyfully celebrate the birth of our Savior, let's look at a few of these challenges Christmas presents to us.

### **Exposition**

#### **1. To Always Intentionally Have Room For Jesus In Our Lives.**

(There Was No Room In The Inn-Luke 2:7.)

#### **2. To Pursue Meritorious Goals And Get Results.**

(The Wise Men Came From Afar Seeking Jesus-Matthew 2:1-2;  
Matthew 2:11.)

#### **3. To Apply Knowledge In A Useful Way.**

(The Scholars Knew The Scriptures, But Did Not Apply  
Their Knowledge To Find Jesus-Matthew 2:4-6.)

**4. To Keep Worship Authentic.**

(Contrast The Wise Men With Herod-Matthew 2:1-2; Matthew 2:7-8.)  
(When Worship Is About Us And Not About God, It Is Not Authentic.)

**5. To Remain Open To Sacred Surprises.**

(The Shepherds Ran Quickly To The Manger -Luke 2:6.)

**Closing Thoughts**

I know; I am preaching to the choir. Antioch-Lithonia has always met her challenges and will continue to do so. We meet them individually and collectively. We meet our challenges with our spiritual weapons: the Word, prayer, and praise. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

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