



“Tuesdays with Pastor Jake”

Tuesday, December 17th
in the year of our Lord, 2024

Unfolding the Redemptive-Historical Promise of Christmas.



#3. “A Savior”

Have you ever heard the phrase, “*Credit where credit’s due?*” It means we ought to acknowledge someone who deserves ‘credit’ for what they’ve done. My devotion this week is credited to a comment Pastor Phil made to me about Linus reading the Christmas story in answer to Charlie Brown’s exasperated question, “*Can anyone tell me what Christmas is all about?*”



**What’s different about
these two pictures?**

A picture is worth a thousand words.



I never noticed it. Apparently, when Linus reads the Christmas story for Charlie Brown from Luke 2, when he comes to the words, ‘Fear not!...he drops his blanket! This wasn’t just a ‘regular’ blanket. It is what we would call a “security” blanket.

I venture many children have such an accessory to their wardrobe. However, when a child grows up, they usually, as St. Paul would say, ‘give up childish ways.’ And yet we know as we get older, we tend to look to other people or to other things to get our ‘security.’ The prophet Jeremiah once said, ‘Let not a wise man boast in his wisdom, or a mighty man in his strength, or a rich man in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me.’ If we substitute the word ‘security’ for the word ‘boast,’ perhaps the meaning would become a bit clearer. The natural tendency for many (me included) is to find our security in *something* else, or in *someone* else, other than the Lord...and that is fraught with difficulty and pain.

Did you know the most oft’ repeated phrase of the Lord Jesus mimic’s that of the Angel’s announcement: “Fear not!” In the midst of a world often gone ‘mad,’ and in a world where we cannot always control the outcome to an end pleasing to us, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” The Angel’s good news to the shepherds, and Jesus’ comfort to his disciples is based on the same thing: *Jesus is the Savior of the world.* St. Paul would say he ‘is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe,’ undermining how important faith in the Lord Jesus is. Paul mirrors what Peter said when the later responded to the rulers and elders and scribes, along with Annas and Caiaphas and said, “There is salvation in on one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

From a personal perspective there are plenty of times, and I hate to admit it, that I find myself in the grip of fear. Whether it was when Marilyn (years ago) had her breast cancer diagnosis, when I left my church in Royersford, when the stock market took a tumble awhile back...we all live in uncertain times. Yet, God in His mercy has often reminded me I have nothing to fear as long as I am trusting in His Son, who saves completely those who’s faith is in Him.

But what does Jesus, as Savior, ‘save’ a person from?

Here are three wonderful things: *from God, from Ourselves and from being ‘fatherless.’*

In writing to the believers in Thessalonica, Paul reminded them Jesus ‘delivers us from the wrath to come.’ As we get older, we shudder to think of an eternity forever separated from God and from all that is good. The hymn writer wrote: “*He to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*” It is Jesus taking my place, suffering my judgment that enables God to forgive and bless. Jesus is a Savior who REDEEMS from a horrible fate those who believe.

Sometimes when Marilyn and I have a squabble, I remind her ‘it isn’t easy being me!’ When I sin and make a mess I have no one to blame but myself. John said the whole world lies in the hands of the evil one. Paul prays that God will release people from the devil ‘who has taken them captive to do his will.’ Jesus came to RESCUE us from the grip of sin and satan.

St. Paul said, to be without God is to be ‘without hope in this world.’ But Jesus brings all those who are ‘afar off’ into a RELATIONSHIP with God as their heavenly Father. John reminds us ‘to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.’ When I was a boy, my dad would sing the Spike Jones Christmas song, ‘wouldn’t it be fun to be Santa Claus’ son...?’ For a kid that would be pretty exciting, but how much better to be able to call God our heavenly Father and find our ‘security’ in Him...then with confidence, we can drop our own blankets.

That’s what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.

All About Christmas Trees!

What Christmas Movies are the following 'Trees' from?

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



Do you know your Christmas Trees?

A



B



C



D



E



The Fraser fir is the most popular Christmas tree, known for its fragrance, sturdy branches, and needle retention. The Douglas fir and Balsam fir are also popular choices. If you want your tree to last, the Fraser fir is known to be the longest-lasting among all the Christmas tree species. If fragrance is an important factor, the balsam fir is famous for its scent.

TREES: A=Scotch Pine B=Norway Spruce C=Douglas Fir D=Blue Spruce E=Fraser Fir
MOVIES: 1. It's a Wonderful Life 2. National Lampoon Christmas 3. A Christmas Story 4. Home Alone 5. White Christmas 6. Elf 7. A Charlie Brown Christmas 8. Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer 9. The Grinch who stole