

The Very, Very Bad & Very, Very Good News of Christmas – Jude 24-25

What is the very, very good news of Christmas? **A Savior has been born to us!**

- But this very, very good news often gets lost in our world today!

The angel of the Lord declares in Luke 2:10-11 – **“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”**

We just sang of “Joy, unspeakable joy”, but do we understand the reason for such joy? Why is the birth of a Savior such **“good news of great joy”**?

The answer to that question is the very, very bad news of Christmas.

The coming of a Savior into this world implies that we are in need of saving!

And the savior we need is not just any savior, we need a God-sized Savior.

Have you ever needed saving? What kind of savior did you need?

What kind of need would prompt the one & only Son of God to leave Heaven’s throne, take on flesh, live among sinful humanity, be betrayed & rejected, die a sinner’s death, & then overcome the grave? **It must have been a serious need!**

Scripture tells us that our need is so great that a human savior is not enough, we need God Himself to save us! The pervasiveness of sin is so destructive that only God can deliver us from it. **Romans 3:9-18**

You see, we can only understand the very, very good news of Christmas if we understand the very, very bad news that **we are in desperate need of saving!**

- “Good news is only ever good news to people who know that they need good news.”
- “Jesus’ birth is both the worst and the best news ever, and understanding both will change your life forever.”

This is the reason for our passage this morning in this short letter of Jude!

Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, is a great example of someone who rejected the very good news at first b/c he didn’t understand the very bad news!

Jude was like any other Jew. **He didn’t think he needed to be saved from himself,** he thought he only needed to be saved from Rome.

He thought the problem was outside of himself, not within himself! Do we?

It wasn’t until Jude heard & understood Jesus’ last words – “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” & not until Jesus’s resurrection when the greatest enemy, sin & death, was conquered, did Jude accept Jesus as his Savior

Only when we too accept the very, very bad news of why Jesus had to come, will we accept, & be filled with joy, for the very, very good news it brings!

We all need saving, & only God Himself can do it! That’s why Jesus came!

Jesus Christ is the only perfect Savior. He satisfies our most desperate need!

“Born unto us this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!”

That’s why we can proclaim “Joy to the world the Savior reigns, let men their songs employ!” This joy, unspeakable joy, is worth singing about!

These final verses in Jude’s letter is what we call a doxology.

A doxology is a hymn or a liturgical formula of expressive praise to God!

It’s what the heavenly host proclaimed in Lk 2:14–**“Glory to God in the highest”**

It’s also the expression of praise that Jude gives here when he says:

- “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling”
- **“and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory”**
- “with great joy”
- “To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord”
- “be glory”
- “majesty”
- “dominion”
- “and authority”
- “before all time and now and forever”
- “Amen”

Christmas truly is the very best news amidst the very worst of realities?

- A Savior has been born to us – His name is Jesus!

This message needs to be proclaimed! Just as the angels declared it 2000 years ago at His coming, let us proclaim it boldly until His return!

And let us never lose the joy that a Savior being “born unto us” brings!

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