

THE THREE-FOLD IDENTITY OF BETHLEHEM'S BABE

⇒ **Text:** Luke 2:11

⇒ **Intro:**

- The Majesty and the glory of the Christmas story.
 - Perhaps no other story in the Bible speaks with such clarity about the power and the purpose of God.
 - Just the fact that God stepped out of eternity into time is almost mind-boggling.
 - I read of the shepherds, lowly and undeserving, yet called just the same.
 - I read of the angels amazed that the Creator was born in the image of the creature.
 - I read of the wise men and I rejoice that these pagans traveled so far and came to know the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - I read of the manger and I am reminded that Jesus laid aside certain attributes of His deity that He might become a man and die for sinners.
 - I read all these things, and it is more than my mind can grasp.
- Then, I am called back to the words of the angel who visited the shepherds on that Judean hillside that night.
 - In the angel's words, we find the true glory of Christmas.
 - Because, no matter what else we may make of it, Christmas will always be about the Baby born in Bethlehem.
 - This morning, I want to take a look at the three-fold identity of Bethlehem's Babe.
 - Notice what the angel had to say about who this Baby was.

⇒ I. SAVIOR – THE TITLE OF ACCEPTANCE

- A. This child's mission wasn't to save the wealthy, or the righteous.
 - He came to set the sinner free – Luke 19:10.
 - He came for those no one else wanted – Mark 2:17.
- B. As Savior, Jesus provided 3 essential services to the sinner:

1.

- 1. We are Accepted in Him – Eph. 1:6 (Acceptance)
- 2. We are Delivered in Him – Delivered from sin's penalty, power and presence. Rev. 1:5; 1 Pet. 1:18-19 (Deliverance)
- 3. We are Preserved in Him – Those whom Jesus saves are forever saved – John 6:37; 1 Pet. 1:5 (Preservation)
- C. Thank God, He came not as Judge, but as Savior – John 3:17

⇒ II. CHRIST – THE TITLE OF ACCESS

- A. This child came to do more than provide simple salvation.
 - He came to allow us access into the very presence of Almighty God.
- B. Through Jesus, we can:
 - 1. Approach the Father – Heb. 4:16 (Ill. Jesus is the only means of access – 1 Tim. 2:5)
 - 2. Appeal to the Father – John 16:23
- C. The Name "Christ" refers to Jesus as the "Anointed High Priest."
 - In this ministry, He addresses the father on our behalf.
 - He does this in two ways:
 - 1. He talks to the Father on our behalf – Heb. 7:25
 - 2. He pleads our case before the throne of God – 1 John 2:1

⇒ III. LORD – THE TITLE OF AUTHORITY

- A. When the angel called Jesus Lord, He was referring to One who was to be in absolute control.
- B. This title of our Lord is a reminder to every Christian that Jesus Christ is to be the absolute authority in our lives.
 - We are to allow Him the Headship in every area of our beings. (Ill. Rom. 12:1-2)
- C. God's demand for total obedience is not too much to ask. – Phil 2:8.
 - He knows that true love is always shown by obedience to Him.

2.

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- It's Christmas time!
 - As such, we need to remember that the reason we are even here today is because of a little infant born into this world 2,000 years ago.
 - That infant was no ordinary baby.
 - As Savior, He is worthy of our worship.
 - As Christ, He is worthy of our dependence.
 - As Lord, He is worthy of our obedience.
 - As Jesus, He is worthy of all we can give to Him.
 - Have you given Jesus your all this Christmas?