

# We Wish You a Merry Rescue:

## The Advent of Christ and the Rescue of Sinners (Part 2)

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



### Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



### Key Text

Luke 1:35

→ “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”



### Big Idea

Christmas is a rescue operation in which God comes down to fulfill our side of the covenant by suffering the covenant curses in our place and securing the covenant blessings on our behalf.

## (1) The Covenants with Man (Christ as Human)

When God created man, He entered into covenant with him. This covenant with Adam will set the contours for the whole story of redemption that follows. It's as if God, in the first pages of Genesis, is digging out the channel within which the rest of redemptive history will flow. As J.I. Packer writes: “The gospel of God is not properly understood till it is viewed within a covenantal frame”

Amazingly, packed within our text, I believe, are allusions to all the major covenants of the OT. These covenants are united fundamentally and unfold historically through the pages of the OT until reaching their climactic fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

“A covenant [biblically speaking] is an agreement between God and human beings, where God promises blessings if the conditions are kept and threatens curses if the conditions are broken.” The biblical covenants are: (1) *Initiated* by God's grace; (2) *integrated* with man's work; and, ultimately (3) *Incomplete* until Christ's advent!

## (2) The Conception of God (Christ as Divine)

At every point along the way, man has not kept His side of the covenant, and yet the promise and covenant move forward, incomplete but advancing. How?! If my works are a condition for the continuation and fulfillment of these covenants, how are they allowed to advance? How could He overlook our failure for so many years?! Answer: From Gen 3:15 onward, He was looking forward to the fullness of time when God the Son would descend into humanity and keep covenant on man's behalf! He would have to both suffer the covenant curses that we rightly deserve for our sin, and secure the covenant blessings by fulfilling for us all righteousness.

## (3) Closing Observations

(1) Christmas Means God Thinks I'm Valuable; (2) Christmas Means God Is Not Afraid of My Mess; (3) Christmas Means God is Not Bored with the Mundane; (4) Christmas Means God Is the Only True Christian



### Critical Action

Move with Christ from Bethlehem through Calvary to Pentecost. Ask Him to be born again in you. Ask Him to walk His life out again through you. Trust Him alone to get you to glory!

### Reflection Questions

- What do you know of biblical covenants? What do they mean to you? Are they connected to one another or separate altogether? Do they have any significance for your life?
- Do you believe you are valuable to God? Why does the rescue communicate the value? Read the parables of Luke 15. What does this communicate about God's love for you?
- Why does Christmas mean God is not afraid of your mess? Do you let Him into your mess? Do you let His people into your mess? Do you enter into the mess of others?

