

## **Sermon Notes – 12.24.2023 – The Father Sent Us His Son**

### **The Birth of Jesus**

**Luke 2:6-7** While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

### **Jesus Came to Us / Jesus was Sent to Us – The Importance of Receiving Him**

**John 1:9-18** There was the true Light which, **coming into the world**, enlightens every man. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11** **He came to His own**, and those who were His own did not receive Him. **12** But **as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15** John \*testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, '**He who comes after me** has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" **16** For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. **17** For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. **18** **No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.**

**Matthew 10:40** "**He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.**

### **Jesus Was Brought to Us – Paul's at Antioch – The Importance of Not Rejecting What God Brought**

**Acts 13:23** "From the descendants of this man, according to promise, **God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus,**

**Act 13:40** "Therefore **take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon you: 41 'BEHOLD, YOU SCOFFERS, AND MARVEL, AND PERISH; FOR I AM ACCOMPLISHING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS, A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE, THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU.'**"

### **Jesus Given to Us – The Importance of Believing**

**John 3:16-19** "For God so loved the world, that **He gave His only begotten Son**, that **whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.** **17** "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "**He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19** "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

### **Responses: Receive, Believe, and Draw near**

**John 6:28-29** Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" **29** Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.**"

**James 4:6-8, 10** But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, **BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**" **7** Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded...**10** **Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.**

### **The Birth, Ministry of Jesus, and His Commission – He Was Sent & He Sends Us**

**John 20:21-22** So Jesus said to them again, "**Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**" **22** And when He had said this, **He breathed on them and \*said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.**

### **Prayer – Follow Him Whom the Father Has Sent**

### **Commissioning of Japan Team**