



Christmas: Reasons To Hope
The Cross
Pastor Mike/Lead Pastor — December 24, 2017
Luke 2:1-11

Message #4: Hope Because God Offered Himself Up
(the purpose of Jesus' coming – the cross)

Luke 2:1-7

Luke 2:11 *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*

Rom 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

The Son became flesh/incarnate that we might **see and **know** God.**

John 1:29 *The next day John (The Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Galatians 4:4-7, *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

John 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

WHY WE GIVE GIFTS:

We give gifts to confirm a new **identity**.

We also give gifts to strengthen the **bonds** between people.

We give gifts to help **direct** someone's future.

Titus 3:4-8, *But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*
(ESV)

What should you do?

- **Offer** yourself as the gift to Jesus... (God loves gifts)
- **Work** on your relationship with Him... (talk, read, spend time)
- **Live** for His Kingdom... (share with others about Him)

