Born to Die
(From Christmas to the Cross)

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It's hard to believe that we are in the Christmas season once again. Many people are making preparations for the special day. They are hanging up their Christmas lights, buying gifts, and planning their Christmas dinners. However, in the midst of the hustle and bustle of this season, all of us need to pause and remember that there would be no reason for Christmas without the cross. In fact, the true reason for Christmas IS the cross. Of course, the cross would have never happened without the birth of Jesus Christ. So in God's providential purpose, Christmas and the cross are inseparably linked together. Jesus was actually born in the shadow of the cross. Christmas leads to the cross. Jesus was born to die.

The Bible declares in Matthew 1:21: "And she shall bring forth a son (Christmas), and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins (cross)." Yes, the true reason for Christ's birth was so He might ultimately go to the cross and provide salvation for mankind. To "save his people from their sins" means that Christ was born to die on Calvary's tree (the cross) so that people could be spared from experiencing hell's judgment. This is the inevitable result and judgment we receive for the many sins that we have committed against God. First Timothy 1:15 adds to this amazing truth by concluding: "This *is* a faithful (truthful) saying, and worthy of all acceptation (approval), that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

At Christmas, God came down to man (John 1:14) in order to provide redemptive salvation for you and me. Jesus was born to die. The birth of Jesus Christ loses its amazement and wonder if you take away the cross for the cross is the reason for Christmas! Christmas is not really about giving to charities and gifts to other people. It's about God the Father giving His Son to die on the cross in order to save lost mankind. Let's not miss the true reason for the season.

For many today, Christmas has become nothing more than a financial crisis as they purchase the newest computer games and other expensive toys for their children and grandchildren. We have all seen the mad rush in the stores and the fights that occur on Black Friday. Christmas has become highly commercialized and the true reason for Christ's birth has been lost in the minds of many people.

The angel announced in Luke 2:11, "For unto you is born this day (Christmas) in the city of David a Saviour (cross), which is Christ the Lord." In fact, the "good will toward men" (Luke 2:14) that was expressed at the birth of Christ was that God was reaching out to a world of lost sinners to ultimately save them from hell. With the entrance of the Savior into the world, the human race that was once separated from God could now be reconciled to Him, through faith in Jesus Christ's saving provision on the cross (2 Cor. 5:19).

During this season and special time of the year, let us not forget that in God's providence and purpose, Christmas was designed to result in the cross. Jesus was born to die. The reason for Christ's birth was His sacrificial death on the behalf of sinners. Dear friend, will you recognize why Christ came into the world and place your faith in Jesus Christ today? Jesus was born to die on the cross to save you and me forever. Cast your faith on Him today. Take time to pray to God and express faith alone in Christ's saving provision. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).