

THE FIRST



CHRISTMAS TREE

ARVVA CHURCH CAMP BIBLE STUDY

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THE FIRST CHRISTMAS GIFT

Our last lesson for the week will be entitled, “The First Christmas Tree. That tree was the Cross on which God hung four perfect ornaments: Love; Intimacy; Forgiveness; and Escape (*someone suggested eternal Life*). There was a particular reason I want to bring this lesson today. It was because, this week, we would be looking at the first Christmas Gift and it just wouldn’t be a Christmas Tree without a Christmas Gift. Our introductory text will come from the 2nd chapter of Luke’s gospel because verses 8-12 speak of something that was given to all men. And not only that... The Angel said it would be wrapped!

Luke 2:⁸In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹² “This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

¹³ And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

“For unto you is born this day”... This is undoubtedly one of the most significant statements in all of the scriptures. Not so much that Someone was born that day, but Who that Someone was. In this scripture he is described as “a Savior”. In others He is called King, Counselor, Prince, Friend, Brother, The Lamb that was slain. But for this season and for this lesson, I submit to you another descriptive label. (**Read Gift scriptures**)

John 4:¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

James 1:¹⁷ Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

2 Corinthians 9:¹⁵ Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

John 3:16 makes plain that the babe born to Mary & Joseph that night was God’s love gift to the world. “**For God so loved the world that He gave..**”. The phrase, “For unto You”, makes that gift personal. In a very real sense, on the day of His birth, Jesus became the very first Christmas Gift. Dunbar Ogden once said, “There are four searching tests that men apply to all gifts”. Let’s see what these tests say about that First Christ Christmas Gift:

I. **Test 1:** Its Purpose: (**Luke 2:10**)

¹⁰ *But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;*

A. To reveal the Undeniable: (**God’s love: John 3:16**)

1) At the time of the angel’s announcement, the Jews had not heard from God in a very long time.

(a) He had loved and forgiven them innumerable times.

(1) He had disciplined and restored them to fellowship over and over again.

2) Finally, even His great love was nearing its breaking point.

(a) To safeguard that love and to prevent the folks from going too far, God gave them a 400 year ‘time-out’.

(1) Please understand, the bible is clear that God’s love did not diminish.

(1a) I think that He was just ‘saving it up’! (**Galatians 4:4-5**)

Galatians 4: ⁴*But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,*

⁵*so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

2) In John 15, Jesus said this (**read**)

¹³*“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*

(a) In John 3:16, God is saying, “My love is greater than man’s greatest.

(1) because, on that first Christmas day, I laid down the life of My Son!”

(1a) One purpose of the Gift was to reveal the Undeniable:

B. Another was To reaffirm the unfathomable: **2 of them**

1) God’s Love is not accidental (**Psalm 139**)

Psalm 139: ¹³ *For You formed my inward parts;*

You wove me in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴ *I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.*

(a) On the day you were conceived, God poured out His love upon you.

(1) on that very day, He deliberately chose to love you all he could

2) The 2nd ‘Unfathomable’ God’s Love is unconditional

Romans 5: ⁸ *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

(a) Before you ever were, God chose to love you as you are, however you are.

(1) For God already So loved you, He gave you the first Christmas Gift whether you would ever accept or not.

C. **Test 1:** The purpose for The gift

1) To reveal the undeniable: God’s Love

(a) To reaffirm the unfathomable: not accidental & is unconditional

(1) What does this mean today? The gift’s purpose hasn’t changed

II. **Test 2:** It's Price (*For unto you born this day, God's Only Son*)

A. The fact is, God would have no other Son

1) because of Jesus' deity, I don't understand why this so significant

(a) but, because the bible describes Jesus as God's ONLY Son, and 5 times as His "ONLY BEGOTTEN SON" I do know that it **IS** significant.

(1) Maybe to let us know the grief that would befall Christ's mother would also be experienced by His Father

Luke 2: ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—

³⁵and a sword will pierce even your own soul..."

2) The Price paid for this First Christmas Gift was great indeed

(a) God knew beforehand that His Son would be "*despised and rejected of men*".

(1) He knew beforehand, from that First Christmas Tree, His ONLY BEGOTTEN would cry out into the darkness, "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken Me?!"

(1a) **Listen: The point is, God knew all this beforehand!** and still, He gave His only Son, wrapped in swaddling clothes.

B. So what does this mean to you today?

1) In God's mind and heart, you are worth it!

(a) I can't explain it, I can't justify it, I don't understand it but that does not alter the fact that God knows you are worth the Price! (**Revelation. 5**)

Revelations 5: ⁹And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

2) In God's mind and in God's heart, there is nothing standing in the way of your receiving that precious gift.

*John 3:*¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life

Romans 10: ¹³for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

C. **Test 1-** The purpose for the Gift: To reveal God's undeniable & Unfathomable Love

1) **Test 2:** The Price of The Gift: The Life of God's Only Son:

(a) Even knowing beforehand How great the price would be, He knows you are worth it.

III. **Test 3** - Its Peculiarity: (*illus. The Uniqueness of His Humanity*)

Dr. Johnston Ross has a striking chapter on "The Uniqueness of His Humanity." How will you classify him? He is neither an ancient nor a modern. He is not of the Orient nor of the Occident. He is more than a Jew and yet he is not a Gentile. He is the example and inspiration of the strongest men and the frailest women. He stands unique as "The Son of Man."

NAUGHTY OR NICE?

Prior to the events we will discuss this morning, there occurred what some might call ‘the formative years’ of our Lord’s life on earth. From the days just following His birth, we see Him develop from the babe in a manger to that not so ordinary boy in the Temple at age 12. We notice as the Scriptures go silent concerning the years that followed except for a brief mention in Luke 2 that we will read in a moment. Although the information about Jesus’ ‘formative years’ was not as comprehensive as we would like, it was enough to teach us some important truths:

A. The Actual humanity of the Man, Jesus

- 1) The Actual humanity of Jesus cannot be over-emphasized because only a man could offer Himself as an acceptable sacrifice for the sin of all men.

B. The importance of faithful, Faith-based parenting:

- 1) Since He had ‘set aside’ His omniscience when He became human *as we are*, it was God’s intent that He learned the great truths *as we do*.
 - (a) He grew in His comprehension of the divine plan as He communed with His Father and was taught by the Spirit
 - (1) He communed with His Father and was taught by the Spirit through the opportunities provided by His earthly parents.
 - (1a) It was this kind of dedicated parenting that helped His human self to increase in wisdom and in favor with God and man.

C. Faithful Parents will not Always understand The Working out Of God’s plans for their children, But the faithful parent will parent faithfully until they do.

The description of Christ’s ‘formative years’ ends with the scripture I mentioned a moment ago:

Luke 2:⁵¹ And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

For 18 years the Lord continued to grow and develop. He presumably worked in Joseph’s shop, and presumably helped support the family after his foster father’s death. His half-brothers and sisters grew to young adulthood under His watchful eye and you know they must have had a hard time trying to measure up to their Big Brother! (“*Why can’t you kids be more like Jesus?*”) In time, the other brothers were able to assume responsibility for their mother’s welfare and at the age of 30 Jesus was free to begin the work for which He had been born.

Our text today will come primarily from Matthew’s gospel but I want you join me in reading from John 1:1. We are learning about Jesus in this series and the first chapter of John is the go-to passage to set up the narrative of what comes after His ‘formative years’ (*read John 1:1-18*)

John 1:¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

² *He was in the beginning with God.*

³ *All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

⁴ *In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.*

⁵ *The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

⁶ *There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

⁷ *He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.*

⁸ *He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.*

⁹ *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.*

I. The Messiah's Herald and The Baptism Of Jesus:

A. During Christ's 'formative years', God had been busy 'forming' another young man for ministry.

1) His task was simple... to tell God's people the long-awaited time had come.

(a) to us, the camel hair suit, leather belt and insectoid diet might seem strange but the folks in that day immediately understood the symbolism:

(1) John's clothing was an exact match to that worn by the prophet Elijah and his diet would reflect the spiritual poverty of a nation who thought she was spiritually rich.

B. Every day John would go into the Jordan River to preach a baptism of repentance and great crowds would gather to hear, participate, or just to watch the show.

1) Sometimes, they would get a regular church service... other times they would get a revival

service. (i.e. Matt 3:7 and other examples)

Matthew 3: ⁷*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*

⁸*“Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;*

- (a) Great multitudes from every conceivable segment of society were turning to God, and being immersed in the river after confessing their sins.
- (1) So many lives were being changed that the folks began to wonder if John might, himself, be the Messiah who was to come.
- (1a) So prevalent was the idea that John began to deal with the error in his preaching

Matthew 3: ¹¹*“As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

- C. This went on for a period of time until one day Jesus, Himself, showed up on the banks of the Jordan.
- 1) He entered the water and after dealing with some hesitancy on John’s part, was baptized.
- (a) As Christ was coming out of the water, the heavens were “**opened up**” and John saw the Spirit of God descend upon Jesus and heard the voice of The Almighty proclaim. “This my Son, in whom I am well pleased”.
- (1) The interesting thing to me is that apparently, The Lord and the Baptist chose to keep their ‘**pre-baptism conversation**’ to themselves for the time being.

II. The Wilderness Temptation:

A. Immediately after the baptism, God’s Spirit led God’s Son into the dessert for the express purpose to be tempted.

- 1) For 40 days He neither eats nor drinks
- (a) As you can imagine, this fast takes a toll on His human body and, just as he reaches the limit of His human strength, Satan appears
- (1) The temptations are swift, targeted, and relentless

B. First, Satan appeals to Jesus’ physical Desires:

- 1) Turn this stone to bread
- (a) Jesus knew the Father did not send Him into the wilderness to be fed but to be tested
- (1) Jesus quoted scripture to turn away temptation

C. Second Satan appeals to Christ’s Spiritual Confidence:

- 1) Throw yourself off the roof!
- (a) Jesus knew the Father did not send Him into the wilderness to prove God’s faithfulness, but to prove His own righteousness

Hebrews 4: ¹⁵*For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*

(1) Again, in response to Satan's test Jesus quoted scripture

D. *Third, Satan appeals to Jesus' Ego:*

1) Worship me and the world is yours!

(a) Jesus knew God did not send Him into the wilderness to gain the world, but to defeat the devil!

(1) Once again, Jesus quotes scripture to gain the upper hand.

Matthew 4: ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"*

III. Finally, The Ordeal is Over:

Matthew 4: ¹¹Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

A. *After the temptations, the angels are allowed to do the one thing they enjoy most.*

1) Food was brought and drink was provided.

(a) I am sure they stood guard over the Lord as He slept and regained His strength.

(1) After a period of time, Jesus is ready to begin what scholars refer to as 'His Public Ministry'.

(1a) But that story will begin at a later date

So, What did we learn today?

I. *Only One Has Ever Been Born Ready For Heaven: (Matthew 3:1-2 & 8-9 & 13-15)*

Matthew 1: ¹Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,

²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

⁸"Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;

⁹and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

¹³Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him.*

¹⁴But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

¹⁵But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him.*

A. *When John came preaching, his message had two focal points:*

1) The First was the need for everyone to repent and the second was the need to do it now!

(a) The concept of a coming kingdom was well known to John's Jewish audience.

- (1) But the idea that repentance was necessary in order to enter this kingdom was something new and became a stumbling block to many Jews.
- 2) They thought that as children of Abraham they would automatically be granted entrance into Messiah's kingdom.
 - (a) John's message, however, was that a change of mind, heart, and corresponding actions was necessary before they could qualify for the kingdom.
 - (1) As Warren Wiersbe says about John's message of repentance:

John's preaching centered on repentance and the kingdom of heaven. The word repent means "to change one's mind and act on that change." John was not satisfied with regret or remorse; he wanted "fruits meet for repentance"
- 3) All kinds of people came to hear John preach and to watch the great baptismal services he conducted.
 - (a) Many publicans and sinners came in sincere humility, but the religious leaders refused to submit.
 - (1) They were basically 'good acting' people who thought that they were good enough to please God; yet John called them a "generation of vipers."

B. Everyone here today, is born with the need to repent built into his/her DNA

- 1) That will not happen by chance...
 - (a) it is an act of the will in response to the touch of god's Holy Spirit.
 - (a) Perhaps some today need to make that response.

From The temptations We Learn:

II. Temptations and Testings will always accompany Acts of Obedience to God.

Mark 1: ¹¹and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

¹²Immediately the Spirit impelled* Him to go out into the wilderness. ¹³And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.

A. Sometimes, Temptations will be delayed for a time:

Matthew 4: ¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

²And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

³And the tempter came and said to Him,...

- 1) Jesus knew why He was sent into the wilderness so He remained vigilant against the devils intent
 - (a) You and I are not Jesus, and elapsed time often cause us to let down our guard
 - (1) Spend the time learning the scripture which is the point of Jesus' repeated victories over Satan's tests

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE

The reason this lesson is so important it ties the first two studies together in a way that helps make Jesus' whole life make sense. On day one we looked at the "The First Christmas Gift". It kind of reminds us of being young and excited about getting 'presents' on Christmas day

On day two, we studied Jesus baptism and 'Wilderness Temptations'. It was kind of a reminder that we can't stay young forever, and that sometimes we have to make important choices in response to important revelations.

Today we are going to study 'The First Christmas Tree. And that is a pretty good way to end our bible study time together because, no matter how young or how old we are, there is one thing that always says, "Christmas" THE TREE!

And that raises an interesting question... Why have a Christmas tree?... Why do we put ourselves through the trials and tribulations of moving all the furniture, shopping for or erecting the perfect tree, and decorating it just so?... For most of us the answer to that question is quite simple... It just wouldn't be Christmas without it.

I want you to indulge me this morning... I want you to assume for a time that the idea of the Christmas tree did not originate in Germany or some pagan religion. I want you to entertain the possibility that the first Christmas tree was not spruce, or pine, or Douglas fir.

And I want you consider that the first Christmas tree was not taken down at the earliest possible moment but still stands to this day. And I want you to envision that first Christmas tree as being decorated, not by a family excited about the arrival of Santa Claus, but by a solitary Father, hanging every ornament with care.

And I want you to see in your mind's eye, that tree, not covered with tinsel in celebration of the day the baby was born,... but decorated some 33 years later to announce His death...

John 19:¹⁴ *Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he *said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!"*

¹⁵ *So they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate *said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."*

¹⁶ *So he then handed Him over to them to be crucified.*

¹⁷ *They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.*

¹⁸ *There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side,*

and Jesus in between.

¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

How did God decorate this First Christmas Tree? What ornaments did He place there?

I. **Love**: Why did He begin with Love? 2 reasons

A. Because He does

1) G. K. Chesterton wrote,

"All men matter. You matter. I matter. It's the hardest thing in theology to believe."

(a) I suppose it is the hardest thing in theology to believe but it is true.

(1) John 3:16 says it's true (**read**)

John 3:¹⁶ "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

2) God did not place His Son on the cross because He was somehow obligated to do so

(a) There was no rule or law that said God had to do this thing.

(1) He chose to 'give His only Son' because He wanted to...

(1b) and He wanted to because He loves

B. He **began** with Love because He **already** does

1) Today, we teach our children that Santa's 'goodwill' is directly related to their 'goodness'

(a) 'He's making a list and checking it twice... gonna find out who's naughty or nice'

(1) implying, of course, that the naughty will get switches instead of toys

2) The awesome truth is that The Love God placed on the tree that day was not determined by our goodness...

(a) **Rom. 5:8** says:

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

(1) People matter to God, not because they have the potential of becoming loveable,

(1a) but because He **already** loves

C. There are those who struggle with this...

1) "How could God ever love someone like me?"

(a) The answer is quite simple... He always did!...

(1) there was never a time in your life when God did not already love you

2) **before you were born** He already loved you, **when you were born** He already loved you, **right now**, He already loves you, and **when you die**,... He will still love you

(a) The first ornament He placed on that tree was Love...

(1) He placed it there because He already does.

The second ornament perfectly compliments the first...

II. Intimacy:

A. It has always been God's desire to have intimate fellowship with those He already loves.

1) He is not satisfied with a long-distance relationship

(a) He wants to walk with and talk with those He cherishes...

(1) It disturbs Him when that 'closeness' is disrupted by sin and He is not satisfied until it is restored.

B. *Illustrate with Adams sin...*

1) Adam once walked each day with God (expound)...

(a) But one day, Adam gave in to sin and that special intimacy with God was taken away.

(1) Adam was ashamed and hid himself from the Lord...

(1b) But then an amazing thing happened... (**Read Gen. 3:7-9**)

Gen 3:7-9 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

2) I want you to notice that it was not Adam who called out to God, it was God who called out to Adam

(a) Why?... Because He missed the intimate relationship they once shared...

(1) He missed walking in the garden with those He loved.

(1a) And He still does...

C. God placed intimacy on that first Christmas tree because He desires to be intimately involved in every aspect of your life (**read Heb 13 & John 14**)

Heb 13:5b for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

*John 14:2-3 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; **that where I am, there you may be also.***

1) God wants intimacy with you but, as was true with Adam, there is something standing in the way... sin

Romans 3: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

(a) Though He placed intimacy on our tree, He knew that would never materialize unless something was done with that sin

(1) So He added another ornament to the tree...

III. **F**orgiveness: (Matt 26:27-28 – *read*)

*Mat 26:27-28 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **for forgiveness of sins.***

A. The Bible tells us that all have sinned therefore all need forgiveness

1) The first Christmas tree,... The Cross of Calvary, is how God chose to accomplish that forgiveness

(a) You see, while Jesus was on the cross, God placed the sin of the world upon Him.

2 Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

(1) in other words, Jesus became sin so that you could be forgiven of sin and be restored to an intimate love relationship with God.

B. He placed the third ornament on the tree because He already loves us and wants an intimate relationship with us.

1) But that could not happen until the price for sin was paid and He could “forgiveness” us.

(a) Love; Intimacy; Forgiveness; and finally, the fourth ornament.

IV. **E**scape: Leighton Ford said,

“God loves us the way we are, but he loves us too much to leave us that way.”

A. We shared earlier that the Bible says all have sinned...

1) What we did not share was the result of that sin.

(a) Rom. 6:28 states simply that the wages of sin is death...

2) That my friends means eternal separation from the God who already loves you.

(a) It means spending eternity in Hell...

B. But, by giving us the very first Christmas tree, and decorating it with Love, Intimacy, and Forgiveness,...

1) God provided a means of escaping Hell’s eternal tragedy.

(a) The Bible says that by:

- Repenting of our sin
- Giving ourselves over to the Lordship of Jesus
- placing our faith, our trust, our reliance, upon the Son of God who died for us on the Cross,

(1) We can absolutely escape the Devil’s hold on our life

2) **Col. 1:13-14** tells us that when we do this thing, God, Himself effects our escape from Satan’s prison and brings us into His own heavenly stronghold

Col 1:13-14 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and
