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## A Few Short Words...

by Pastor Phillip Short

Christmas is an interesting story. Each of the Gospels tell the same story, but they all have a different emphasis.

The one exception would be the Gospel according to Mark. Mark does not mention the birth of Jesus. Most biographies that come from this era do not mention the birth of the person.

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus from Mary's point-of-view and speaks of shepherds watching over their flock by night.

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's point-of-view and speaks of Magi, a star, and gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

John has an especially brief Christmas story. It is only one sentence long. He writes: "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." I like John's story. It is so brief, but you can think about it forever.

While the Apostle Paul never wrote the Gospel story, he proclaimed it powerfully and fearlessly. He wrote: "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst" (1 Timothy 1:15). That tells of the Christmas story. Jesus came into the world. It was an invasion into enemy territory. Jesus came to redeem and take back those who had been lost to sin. He came to save sinners. He came to save them from the law of sin and death. He came to rescue them in a dangerous, self-sacrificial way. It must have taken an immeasurable amount of divine love to go and do such a thing! Paul said that He even came to save himself, the worst of sinners (although on September 3, 1962 an even worse sinner was born).

This is the way that we will be looking at Christmas this year. Enjoy this edition of *The Steeple Echoes* and you will read about the different offerings to celebrate the trustworthy truth that is worthy of full acceptance.

I look forward to worshiping The One who came and gave all to make the difference for us!

><> Love! Pastor Phillip